



# I'm Perfect, You're Doomed: Tales from a Jehovah's Witness Upbringing

By Kyria Abrahams

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*I'm Perfect, You're Doomed* is the story of Kyria Abrahams's coming-of-age as a Jehovah's Witness -- a doorbell-ringing "Pioneer of the Lord." Her childhood was haunted by the knowledge that her neighbors and schoolmates were doomed to die in an imminent fiery apocalypse; that Smurfs were evil; that just about anything you could buy at a yard sale was infested by demons; and that Ouija boards -- even if they were manufactured by Parker Brothers -- were portals to hell. Never mind how popular you are when you hand out the Watchtower instead of candy at Halloween.

When Abrahams turned eighteen, things got even stranger. That's when she found herself married to a man she didn't love, with adultery her only way out. "Disfellowshipped" and exiled from the only world she'd ever known, Abrahams realized that the only people who could save her were the very sinners she had prayed would be smitten by God's wrath.

Raucously funny, deeply unsettling, and written with scorching wit and deep compassion, *I'm Perfect, You're Doomed* explores the ironic absurdity of growing up believing that nothing matters because everything's about to be destroyed.

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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #617536 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-02-17
- Released on: 2009-03-03
- Format: Kindle eBook

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

When Abrahams was growing up, her world was neatly divided between those who would live forever in a paradise on earth and all the "worldly" people her Jehovah's Witness family prayed for. Her congregation forbade Christmas and Halloween, aggressively shunned anyone who left the fold and taught children that birthday parties were of the devil. For kicks in her early teens, Abrahams would go witnessing door-to-door with her pal Lisa, a die-hard J-Dub. This acerbic, witty memoir chronicles the first 23 years of Abraham's life with candor and a good dose of comedy. Unlike other memoirs written by the disenchanted, Abrahams musters some affection for her decent but screwed-up family, and even for the religion itself. Where the story hits a rough patch is in her account of her late teens and early 20s, when she dropped out of high school; rushed into a disastrous teen marriage; fell into alcohol, drugs and adultery; and finally "fired Jehovah as [her] personal bodyguard" and became an apostate divorcée. None of this is particularly funny, and Abrahams's tale of self-destruction ends abruptly enough that readers will wonder how she managed to pull herself together. (*Mar.* 3)

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From [Booklist](#)

*\*Starred Review\** Given that Abrahams is now a stand-up comic and spoken-word poet, it makes perfect sense to begin her very funny memoir with her performance debut at the Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Kingdom Hall, at age 8 (her presentation was about freedom from demon possession). She describes the children's books she read as a child as a cross between "Dr. Seuss rhymes and tales of how sinners would scream and gnash their teeth at Armageddon." In her world, Smurfs were "little blue demons" and yard sales were enticements from Satan. As a bored teenager with OCD, she didn't know what to do with herself or how to make sense of the world. On the verge of 18, she married a 24-year-old part-time college math teacher because, even if his interest in her was, at best, halfhearted, she wanted a boyfriend and didn't know any other Jehovah's Witnesses who liked her. Anyway, she reasons, "this is what adults did, and I was an adult." It wasn't long before she longed to be out of the marriage. Between threats of suicide, she tried to be "disfellowshipped," or shunned, by her congregation, which proved surprisingly difficult to accomplish. Abrahams is a natural writer whose prose flows effortlessly as she easily mixes throwaway humor and painful memories in a compelling narrative. --June Sawyers

Review

"It's a rare writer who can tell of oppression, repression, or really horrible decisions yet still be entertaining and amusing." -- About.com

"Abrahams tackles her story with deft humor and her comedy is enhanced by just how humorless her life has been." -- *BUST* magazine

"A brilliant portrait of a faltering fundamentalist teen on the brink, finally rising like a phoenix from her own ashes." -- *The Apiary*

"Kyria Abrahams, former teen bride of a doomsday cult and seeker of salvation in slam poetry, tells the terribly funny story of her improbable life with candor, wit, and an unsparing eye for the perfect detail. Brilliant." -- Janice Erlbaum, author of *Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir*

"The funniest book I've ever read by a disfellowshipped Jehovah's Witness from Pawtucket. Very funny. Very, very funny. Very, very, very funny." -- Janeane Garofalo

"Amazingly vivid and profoundly compelling. Twisted, touching, absurd, hilarious, and honest. A new kind of memoir." -- Wendy Spero, author of *Microthrills*

"Kyria Abrahams can do the 'coming-of-age in a sea of eternal hellfire' story like nobody else. Her tale of an adolescence in the ranks of the Jehovah's Witnesses is irresistible, thanks to her hilarious, sweet, and knowing narrator." -- Bob Powers, author of *Happy Cruelty Day!*

"Miraculous...hilarious....Simultaneously affectionate and aware, Kyria recounts a childhood and young womanhood that at once seems completely universal and breathtakingly bizarre." -- Adam Felber, author of *Schrödinger's Ball* and panelist on NPR's "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!"

"This acerbic, witty memoir chronicles the first 23 years of Abraham's life with candor and a good dose of comedy." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"A natural writer whose prose flows effortlessly as she easily mixes throwaway humor and painful memories in a compelling narrative." -- *Booklist*

"Undoubtedly the cleverest lapsed Jehovah's Witness yet, Abrahams offers a graphic, mordant, wickedly distaff take on her life." -- *Kirkus*

"Hilarious, raw, and touching...Abrahams emerged to write about her experience in an honest, funny, and somehow relatable way." -- *The Comedians*

"Abrahams provides readers with a profound anecdotal look of growing up as a Jehovah Witness" -- Harriet Klausner, *Genre Go Round*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sherrie Shannon:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled I'm Perfect, You're Doomed: Tales from a Jehovah's Witness Upbringing. Try to stumble through book I'm Perfect, You're Doomed: Tales from a Jehovah's Witness Upbringing as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let's make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

#### **Deborah Green:**

Do you among people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys

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#### **Lloyd Lake:**

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#### **Nathan Pope:**

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