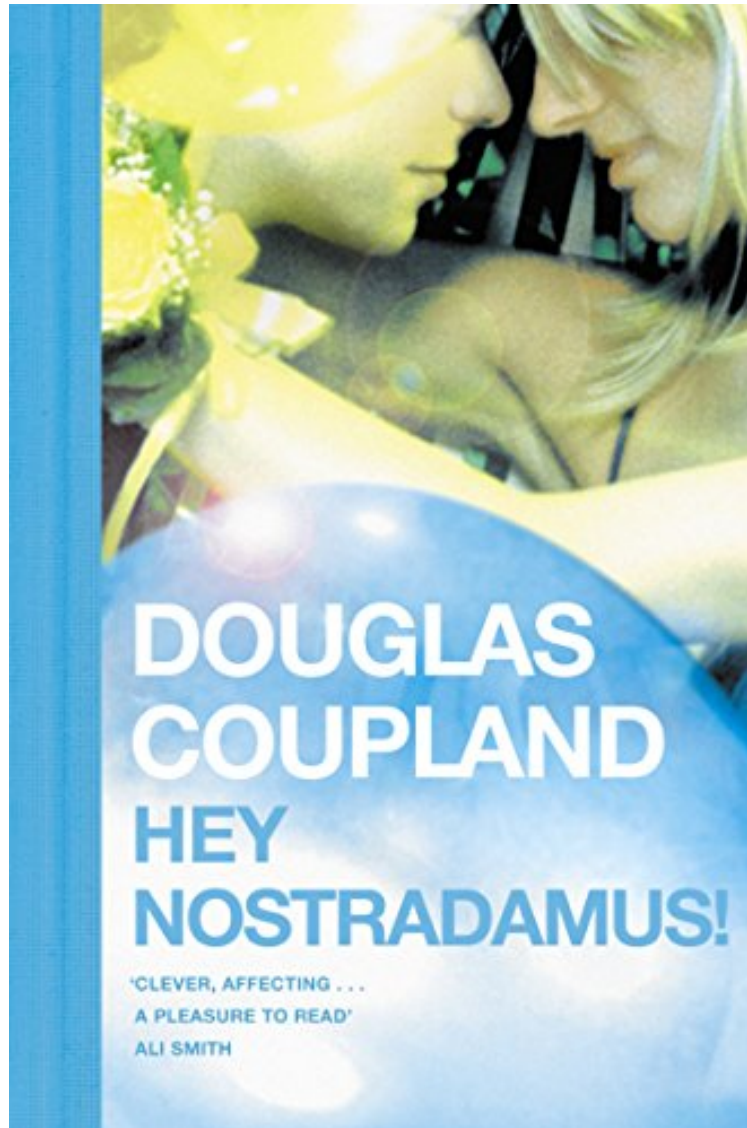


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## Hey Nostradamus!

*Von Douglas Coupland*

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**Von Douglas Coupland : Hey Nostradamus!** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hey Nostradamus!:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Loneliness and misunderstandingVon KundeLike in all his books, Coupland shows us that all people are alone, but not lonely. The characters are described with a great tenderness even when their acting seems to be wrong. Coupland describes the motives of each person to the reader. The book is funny and sad at the same time.8 von 9 Kunden fanden

die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nachdenkliches und sensibles Buch Von Claudia Erneut hat Douglas Coupland es geschafft, mich mit einer klugen und emotionalen Geschichte in den Bann zu ziehen. Falls es einen roten Faden gibt bei ihm, so ist es die Sinnsuche seiner Figuren. In "Hey Nostradamus" fragt er diesmal ganz klar: Hey Nostradamus, hast Du was hier passierte prophezeit? Ist es vorgezeichnet? Erfüllt es einen Zweck? Die Storyline bei DC ist meist ungewöhnlich und diesmal ist die erste Stimme des Buches- es gibt mehrere Ich-Erzähler- Cheryl, das letzte Opfer eines brutalen Highschool-Massakers. Sie schreibt eingangs über den Tag ihres Todes, die Beziehung zu ihrem Freund Jason und ihren Glauben an Gott. God is now here / God is nowhere schreibt Cheryl auf ihren Block, während neben ihr Mitschler sterben und diese gekritzelt Worte lassen sie für die Medien zur posthum verklärten Heldin werden. Jason, der einen der Amokläufer tötet und damit das Leben vieler rettet, wird hingegen zu einem möglichen Mörder gekürt. - um die Schnelligkeit und Oberflächlichkeit solcher Einstufungen macht sich DC eher nebenbei Gedanken. Fokus sind 18 Jahre nach der Tat die Auswirkungen auf den Mikrokosmos einer Familie, archetypisch gibt es den bigotten Vater, der Jason als Mörder verurteilt, eine alkoholranke Mutter, den braven und perfekt funktionierenden ersten Sohn und natürlich Jason, den verlorenen Sohn. Alle lernt man im Laufe des Buches kennen und sieht die Verstrickungen, die Lügen und beobachtet, wie diese Personen sich bemühen nicht zusammenzubrechen und weiter leben und neu lieben zu können. Niemand beschreibt so faszinierend wie DC traumatisierende Eingriffe und schafft es die Leser mit auf die jeweils sehr persönliche Reise nach dem Sinn derartiger Schockerlebnisse zu nehmen. Jede Person des Buches ist betroffen, keiner bleibt verschont oder unverändert. Das Ende ist versöhnlich und bleibt dennoch offen... ein absolutes Must-Have für alle Douglas Coupland Fans!

2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Klug und emotional Von Claudia Erneut hat Douglas Coupland es geschafft, mich mit einer klugen und emotionalen Geschichte in den Bann zu ziehen. Falls es einen roten Faden gibt bei ihm, so ist es die Sinnsuche seiner Figuren. In "Hey Nostradamus" fragt er diesmal ganz klar: Hey Nostradamus, hast Du was hier passierte prophezeit? Ist es vorgezeichnet? Erfüllt es einen Zweck? Die Storyline bei DC ist meist ungewöhnlich und diesmal ist die erste Stimme des Buches- es gibt mehrere Ich-Erzähler- Cheryl, das letzte Opfer eines brutalen Highschool-Massakers. Sie schreibt eingangs über den Tag ihres Todes, die Beziehung zu ihrem Freund Jason und ihren Glauben an Gott. God is now here / God is nowhere schreibt Cheryl auf ihren Block, während neben ihr Mitschler sterben und diese gekritzelt Worte lassen sie für die Medien zur posthum verklärten Heldin werden. Ich denke, dass sich DC hierbei von wahren Geschehen vor ein paar Jahren an einer Highschool in den USA inspirieren ließ- hier wurde ebenfalls eines der Opfer zur Heldin stilisiert, weil sie angeblich erschossen wurde, da sie die Frage eines der Täter: "glaubst du an Gott?" mit "ja" beantwortete... Jason jedenfalls, der einen der Amokläufer tötet und damit das Leben vieler rettet, wird hingegen zu einem möglichen Mörder gekürt. Um die Schnelligkeit und Oberflächlichkeit solcher Einstufungen macht sich DC eher nebenbei Gedanken. Fokus sind 18 Jahre nach der Tat die Auswirkungen auf den Mikrokosmos einer Familie, archetypisch gibt es den bigotten Vater, der Jason als Mörder verurteilt, eine alkoholranke Mutter, den braven und perfekt funktionierenden ersten Sohn und natürlich Jason, den verlorenen Sohn. Alle lernt man im Laufe des Buches kennen und sieht die Verstrickungen, die Lügen und beobachtet, wie diese Personen sich bemühen nicht zusammenzubrechen und weiter leben und neu lieben zu können. Niemand beschreibt so faszinierend wie DC traumatisierende Eingriffe und schafft es die Leser mit auf die jeweils sehr persönliche Reise nach dem Sinn derartiger Schockerlebnisse zu nehmen. Insbesondere die Beziehung Jasons zu seinem bigotten Vater - der m.E. die heimliche Hauptperson des Buches ist- wird sehr scharfsinnig durchleuchtet.... ein absolutes Must-Have für alle Douglas Coupland Fans!

Kurzbeschreibung The story of one family piecing itself back together after a tragic high school shooting, Hey Nostradamus! is Douglas Coupland's most soulful, piercing and searching novel yet. Pregnant and secretly married, Cheryl Anyway scribbles her last will and testament and eerie premonition on a school binder shortly before a rampaging trio of misfit classmates gun her down in a high school cafeteria. Overrun with paranoia, teenage angst and religious zeal in the ensuing massacre's wake, this sleepy Vancouver neighbourhood declares its saints, brands its demons and finally moves on. But for a handful of people still reeling from that horrific day, life remains perpetually derailed. Four dramatically different characters tell their stories in their own words: Cheryl, who calmly narrates her own death; Jason, the boy no one knew was her husband, still marooned ten years later by his loss; Heather, the woman trying to love the shattered Jason; and Jason's father Reg, a cruelly religious man no one suspects is still worth loving. Each wrestles with God, self-defeat and a crippling inability to hold on to those they love. Coupland's most surprising and soulful novel yet, rich with his trademark cultural acuity and dark humour, Hey Nostradamus! ties themes of alienation, violence and misguided faith into a fateful and unforgettable knot from which four people must untangle their lives.. deConsidering some of his past subjects-- slackers, dot-commers, Hollywood producers-- a Columbine-like high school massacre seems like unusual territory for the usually glib Douglas Coupland. Anyone who has read Generation X or Miss Wyoming knows that dryly hip humor, not tragedy, is the Vancouver author's strong suit. But give Coupland credit for twisting his material in strange, unexpected shapes. Coupland begins his seventh novel by

transposing the Columbine incident to North Vancouver circa 1988. Narrated by one of the murdered victims, the first part of *Hey Nostradamus!* is affecting and emotional enough to almost make you forget you're reading a book by the same writer who so accurately characterized a generation in his first book, yet was unable to delineate a convincing character. As Cheryl Anway tells her story, the facts of the Delbrook Senior Secondary student's life--particularly her secret marriage to classmate Jason--provide a very human dimension to the bloody denouement that will change hundreds of lives forever. Rather than moving on to explore the conditions that led to the killings, though, Coupland shifts focus to nearly a dozen years after the event: first to Jason, still shattered by the death of his teenage bride, then to Jason's new girlfriend Heather, and finally to Reg, Jason's narrow-minded, religious father. *Hey Nostradamus!* is a very odd book. It's among Coupland's most serious efforts, yet his intent is not entirely clear. Certainly there is no attempt at psychological insight into the killers' motives, and the most developed relationships--those between Jason and Cheryl, and Jason and Reg--seem to have little to do with each other. Nevertheless, it is a Douglas Coupland book, which means imaginatively strange plot developments--as when a psychic, claiming messages from the beyond, tries to extort money from Heather--that compel the reader to see the story to its end. And clever turns of phrase, as usual, are never in short supply, but in Cheryl's section the fate we (and she) know awaits her gives them an added weight: "Math class was x's and y's and I felt trapped inside a repeating dream, staring at these two evil little letters who tormented me with their constant need to balance and be equal with each other," says the deceased narrator. "They should just get married and form a new letter together and put an end to all the nonsense. And then they should have kids." --Shawn Conner, .ca.co.uk

Readers of Douglas Coupland's more recent fictions have become accustomed to encountering characters touched by tragedy, whether it be falling into comas, surviving plane crashes or becoming infected with the AIDS virus after bizarre shooting incidents. *Hey Nostradamus!* is no exception: a novel in four voices. The opening narrator, Cheryl Anway, is the 17-year-old victim of a Columbine-style high-school massacre. Just before she was murdered in 1988, Cheryl had secretly married her high-school sweetheart Jason Klaasen and was expecting their child. The couple were part of a zealously evangelical Christian group, Youth Alive! whose members, immediately after the slaying, falsely accused Jason of masterminding the incident. Eleven years later, Jason is still coming to terms with Cheryl's death. He is, as he admits to his faithful dog Joyce, a "social blank with a liver like the Hindenburg embarrassed by how damaged he is and by how mediocre he turned out". (He fits bathrooms for a living.) Jason is also scarred by his relationship with his father Reg, a religious pedant so unyielding that he drove his wife into alcoholism and who genuinely believes that one of his identical twin grandsons cannot possess a soul. Coupland persistently dissects notions of morality, faith, belief, forgiveness and devotion here. Even Reg, who leads the very final section of the story, is a multifaceted figure whose religiosity is handled with a surprising degree of compassion. Loss, however, is the main theme, exemplified by the fact that its two main characters are absent presences. Cheryl is dead throughout and by the time Heather, Jason's new partner, takes up the narrative, Klaasen has himself disappeared. His vanishing act forces her to engage Allison, the book's dubious Nostradamus; she is a fake psychic intent on ripping Heather off, yet mysteriously in possession of cannily specific "messages" from Jason. The book's structure, epistolary in parts, can make the story appear unfocused; some sections certainly err toward the frenetic, incident-wise, but Coupland's tremendous wit, humanity and moral force carry it along. As ever, splutters of dates and pop trivia mingle with profound reflections on life and death; surely, only Coupland nowadays could mark the time of day with a reference to McDonalds breakfasts and pull it off. That said, there's a very slight harking back to *Life After God*--the cartoon characters that Heather and Jason invent do seem rather similar to Doggles, the Dog who wore Goggles, and Squirrelly the Squirrel. Nonetheless, where those stories were about the "first generation raised without religion" this moving, prescient novel takes a long hard look at those who choose God, or have God thrust upon them. --Travis Elborough