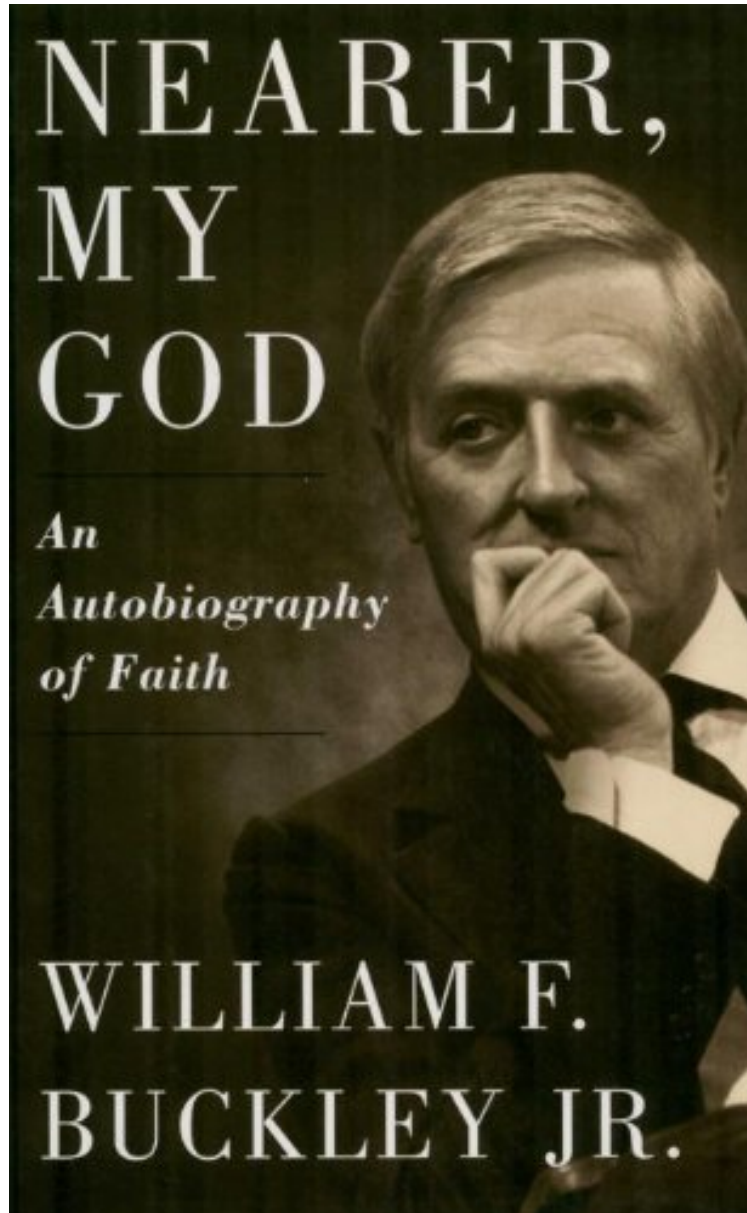


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## Nearer, My God

*Von William F. Buckley Jr*

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1504993 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2011-10-05Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-10-05File Name: B005NKGDLM | File size: 73.Mb

**Von William F. Buckley Jr : Nearer, My God** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nearer, My God:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. No Nearer My GodVon Ein KundeThere are only two types of people who can pick up this book and stay with it until the

end: fans of William F. Buckley Jr. and Catholics. I am in the latter category. I was expecting a breaking down of the cool cool conservative man enough to let us view the humble follower of Christ within and a side of Buckley not often seen (even he says in his book this is the first book he has written examining his faith). I was disappointed in that there is no real religious passion in the book. Indeed, it is difficult to find any personal zeal at all. He talks a lot about the worldly church and the problems people have with contraception, papal infallibility, ordination of women, etc. but even in these much-discussed topics that are all so superficial it is hard to find Mr. Buckley's opinion; he has to gather a roundtable of sorts of other Catholics and get THEIR opinion first and then venture a tentative answer. I always thought Mr. Buckley was a highly opinionated man. Why does he need the opinions of others first? And the people he picks are intellectuals so, of course, among the opinions culled he will find one or two to back. An effective apologist of the faith Mr. Buckley is not. The book does discuss some genuine theological issues such as free will and determinism but again I find no personal struggle related by Mr. Buckley (if indeed he does wrestle with this problem) just a dispassionate discussion with his intellectual roundtable. I got the impression I was reading the transcript of a college symposium not a "autobiography of faith". And then there are the inconsequent additions to this book. In chapter eight he includes a passage written by a mystic, Maria Valtorta, in which she described in horrific detail the actual moment to moment sufferings of Christ during the crucifixion. I had never read this before and I was very interested and moved but Mr. Buckley shows no emotion regarding the passage and instead introduces it by saying: " My decision, then, is that in the only book on the faith I will ever put together I don't want to deprive the reader of what I view, notwithstanding its crudity- perhaps because of it?- as an artful portrayal of the great historical event that preceded, and led to, the Resurrection, a depiction if not inspired by God, inspiring nonetheless." Upon reading that introduction I was reminded of the scene in the movie "Up the Down Staircase" wherein the schoolgirl writes the letter to her teacher expressing her love for him and he proceeds not to comment on the heartfelt emotion of the letter, not on the content, but to CORRECT THE GRAMMAR. Now, Mr. Buckley didn't go that far but I found no emotional reaction to the passage that he himself included in this book. The question then becomes why did he add this to his book? To fill another 17 pages? Another addition that had me shaking my head was the Appendix B called " A listing of Religious Activities at Various Schools" Okay, okay, that wasn't too un-interesting but what does it have to do with the price of tea in China? What does the list of prep schools have to do with YOUR FAITH Mr. B? I understand that Mr. Buckley is undoubtedly a reserved man. Many of us Catholics are reserved that's why we dislike many of the features of the NOVUS ORDO mass and why we don't like to sing out in church and why we get to say our confession behind a screen ( and prefer it that way) but if that reservation is what has kept Mr. Buckley from personalizing his autobiography of faith I wish he had not teased his readers in the title, introduction and publisher's blurbs. I respect Mr. Buckley in that he wishes to keep his spirituality private, as St Francis would say, "interior" but I do feel he has sinned in misleading the reading public. But don't worry Mr. Buckley, I am sure it is only a venial sin.

Kathleen M. Garea 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Buckley Still One Of the World's Great Intellectuals Von Ein Kunde In his "My God! Nearer?", Buckley ponders the controversies surrounding the Catholic church and attempts to resolve his own difficulties with his faith. One particularly moving passage recounts his lifelong, hopeless struggle with stammering and his anger toward god for afflicting him with his terrible speech disorder. Buckley describes in vivid detail his frustration at being possessed of the most brilliant intellect in the history of civilization, only to have it obstructed by his terrible speech impediment. Buckley consistently demonstrates the depth of his legendary intellect throughout this endless, unreadable essay. In one typically overworded, nonsensical passage, he writes that "...the exegis of the Vatican II in decentralizing the Church went directly to the malformation of the secular hubris of the Calvinists. In fact, the Calvinists were the prime figures in the 'impartially agnostic' doctrine of the Time-Life monarchy....". Buckley's ability to perpetually spew such inexplicable bible-di-babble, coupled with the ridiculos punctuation of the 3-word book title, prove once and for all, that he is the greatest intellectual this world has ever known. Fans of Buckley will be disappointed that the stammering sounds are left out of the writing (.ah..the volume of...ah..ah..cultural..relativism..ah..ah..is..ul..ul..ult..ultimately..anachronized), and his written discourse loses something without the visual impact of the famous wild, bug-eyes and wicked, perverted smirk he flashes after uttering something incomprehensible, but which he thinks is utterly clever. Conservatives who consider themselves to be highly educated intellectuals will love this unreadable book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Aescetics and Joy of the Catholic Christian Faith Von Ein Kunde This was the book that drove some important decisions in my life. Mr. Buckley has gathered from his own experience some deeply personal relections on Roman Catholic faith. I cherish his effort in writing about his life and knowledge of the church in a manner that is spiritual and reflective of a deep sense of grace. Chapter 8 on Christ's Crucifixion and Chapter 9 about St. Bernadette's experience at Lourdes were stunning to me. I was quite struck by the personal honesty displayed for public view, but I got a sense that Mr. Buckley might someday return to the subject for a sequel. Hopefully he will continue to explain Catholicism in his interesting, witty and challenging manner. Although this book was a tremendous joy to read, it is at times challenging in it's vocabulary and depth of intellectual thought. Well worth the effort for the appreciative reader searching for some of the toughest theological questions. Casual readers will probably find the slog of the first few

chapters more difficult than easier digested works. A Five Star Feast for faithful inquirers of Roman Catholicism.

Kurzbeschreibung His Roman-Catholic faith has been an enduring part of the life and personality of William Buckley, Jr. Now, for the first time since his ground breaking *God and the Man* at Yale he has written a book about faith--his own. *Nearer, My God, An Autobiography of Faith* is William Buckley's superbly written story of his life seen through his abiding love for the Catholic Church, a love instilled in him from childhood. He reminisces about his school days in England, his family, the affect the Lunn/Knox dialogue had on him, and examines many aspects of Catholicism and its theology, doctrine and liturgy and on the way discourses about Lourdes, the vernacular mass, the Church and the State, the Crucifixion, the priesthood, contraception as well as the many people who have assisted him on his life's journey. A remarkable, revealing book about one man and his faith..de In *Nearer, My God*, William F. Buckley Jr. turns away from the political concerns that form the crux of his reputation and offers a series of thoughtful meditations upon his Roman Catholic faith. Although the book is subtitled *An Autobiography of Faith*, only portions of it are strictly autobiographical. Other sections include ruminations on the controversies of the modern Church--such as the continued ban on birth control and the ordination of female priests--and an exegesis of *Difficulties*, a remarkable 1934 collaborative debate between a Catholic priest and an amateur theologian. ("The volume has slipped from regular use," Buckley writes, "and even from the memory of younger people, but it is not anachronized, though it takes on some questions that no longer vex the religiously curious.") Buckley writes with consistent intelligence and precision; how, indeed, could it be otherwise? Even those who do not agree with him politically will be struck by the sensitivity of his spiritual inquiry, particularly in his elaboration of the distinction between contemporary Catholic practice and the enduring Catholic heritage. *Nearer, My God* serves as a splendid testimony to the maintenance of faith. --Ron Hogan.com In *Nearer, My God*, William F. Buckley Jr. turns away from the political concerns that form the crux of his reputation and offers a series of thoughtful meditations upon his Roman Catholic faith. Although the book is subtitled *An Autobiography of Faith*, only portions of it are strictly autobiographical. Other sections include ruminations on the controversies of the modern Church--such as the continued ban on birth control and the ordination of female priests--and an exegesis of *Difficulties*, a remarkable 1934 collaborative debate between a Catholic priest and an amateur theologian. ("The volume has slipped from regular use," Buckley writes, "and even from the memory of younger people, but it is not anachronized, though it takes on some questions that no longer vex the religiously curious.") Buckley writes with consistent intelligence and precision; how, indeed, could it be otherwise? Even those who do not agree with him politically will be struck by the sensitivity of his spiritual inquiry, particularly in his elaboration of the distinction between contemporary Catholic practice and the enduring Catholic heritage. *Nearer, My God* serves as a splendid testimony to the maintenance of faith. --Ron Hogan