



# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven,or How I Made Peace with the Paranormal and Stigmatized Zealots and Cynics in the Process

*Corey Taylor*

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In this book, Corey Taylor undertakes something never before attempted in the history of rock superstardom: he takes you with him as he journeys undercover through various ghostbusting groups who do their best to gather information and evidence about the existence of spirits. Some are more credible than others, and, frankly, some are completely insane, but all are observed with appropriate seriousness as Taylor attempts to better understand some of the spooky things that have happened to him in his life, especially that night at the Cold House.

But that's not all, folks. Taylor once again gives you a behind-the-scenes tour of his crazy life and the many beyond-the-grave events he's encountered. (You'll be shocked how often Slipknot has been invaded by the supernatural.) Taylor also touches on his religious background and how it led him to believe in much more than the *Man in the Sky*.

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven,or How I Made Peace with the Paranormal and Stigmatized Zealots and Cynics in the Process Details

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## From Reader Review A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven,or How I Made Peace with the Paranormal and Stigmatized Zealots and Cynics in the Process for online ebook

### Boris says

Interesting thoughts and great stories, but it was tough to follow Corey Taylor's stream of consciousness writing style at times.

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### Liz says

This book was given to me by a friend after we'd had a discussion on ghosts and the supernatural. While occasionally entertaining I can't really say that this book is truly worth reading. It is something to read on a train, or a busride, or a flight just to pass the time and be done with it. The write style is, obviously, simple and a bit crude. It did not bother me except for the occasions when Taylor decided that it would be funny to write a sentence consisting almost solely of swear words. Sorry, my sense of humour is a bit more complicated than that.

The ghost stories themselves were certainly intriguing although, as always, the problem lies in the question of believing.

A bit weird "filler" book for in-between. For those who like Corey Taylor, ghosts (and ghost stories) or both.

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### Bonnie says

My rating: 4.5 of 5 stars

A copy of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven was provided to me by Da Capo Press for review purposes.

*'Thinking back now, it was really just a creepy house that creaked and shuddered, but to impressionable nine-year-olds, it was the vacation spot of the devil itself.'*

To give you all a proper introduction for those who are unaware, Corey Taylor is the lead singer of Slipknot and Stone Sour and the author of Seven Deadly Sins. 'A Funny Thing Happened' is a worthy follow-up novel and another tantalizing look into the mind of an incredibly interesting man.

At face value I was expecting 'A Funny Thing Happened' to be a random smattering of ghostly encounters he has had over the years, and it is, yet it's a fascinating exploration into the reasoning behind ghosts. His scientific details will definitely get you wondering because his hypotheses generated some genuinely possible answers. Surprisingly intellectual and educational, 'A Funny Thing Happened' is definitely a conduit that spurs some serious debates regarding the existence of the paranormal.

*'Cynics will claims that my "eyewitness accounts" can easily be described as "flights of fancy," or "the trappings of an overactive imagination." [...] the one I hate even worse than those others: "You saw what you wanted to see and nothing more."*

*Let me fucking telling you something: I did not want to see this shit, and I still do not want to see this shit.'*

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A Funny Thing Happened is written with a humor that is harsh and biting yet oh so entertaining. This is a man that isn't afraid to speak his mind yet is graciously considerate of others beliefs. He's mindful and respectful of others beliefs regardless of whether or not he shares them. Simply put, he is a man of many opinions and isn't afraid to share... such as it should be.

*'Belief is a gift you should cherish; knowledge is a gift you should never squander.'*

This book is like one big discussion, all topics are left open to interpretation, without concrete facts, just mindful musings and hypotheses. It will definitely generate antithetical opinions, however, approach this with an open mind and you may find yourself actually considering the possibilities of an alternate opinion. Or maybe you'll remain a skeptic. Either way, this book will definitely leave you something to ponder.

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## Gail says

I found Corey Taylor's schtick (*OMFG I'm so ADHD and thinking constantly about so many things that I'm totally amazing don't you wish your mind was as active as mine*) to be tiresome. The encounters he had with the paranormal tended to lose all impact due to his tendency to prattle on and on and on. I often felt like he was generating cheap filler to hit "book length". This would've made an interesting short essay; it's a shame he didn't realize that.

His analytical skills seemed lacking. He claimed to rail against god, but he was actually dissing religion. He consistently used "hung" instead of "hanged", which I assume was a deliberate choice (or else his editor is a twit). He seemed sure his reader would find words like "entropy" above their level. The ghost sightings he discussed were not compelling, partially because he comes across as someone who lacks the capacity to deeply think about any given situation so I'm left assuming he didn't notice alternative explanations staring him in the face.

Around page 180 I realized I really didn't care what else he had to say -- it would undoubtedly be more of the same pointless blather -- so I closed the book and returned it to the library.

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## Tex says

“A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Heaven” (AFTHOTWTH) is the second book by Slipknot and Stone Sour front man Corey Taylor.

This book is hard to explain - is it part of an unfinished thesis on the existence of ghosts broken down through scientific concepts or is it just a trip down memory lane of Taylor's own experiences with the supernatural; from the creepy abandoned house snuck into as a child, to a theatre where he's played, and even his own home?

Whatever it is it's entertaining. With his own brand of razor sharp wit (there were multiple instances of laughing out loud on the train while reading this book) and zero fucks given approach Corey Taylor has shared what he knows is true (through his own experiences and those he's shared) while fully admitting that he can't explain why or how these brushes with the supernatural occurred. But that doesn't stop him giving it a red hot go.

My only issue was Taylor did tend to repeat a few concepts throughout the book (though he did bring these back to the point he was making at the time).

Different to Taylor's first book (but if you enjoyed that you'll enjoy this) AFTHOTWTH still brings his unique twist on the subject matter at hand. The simple message in this book is you don't have to necessarily believe what he says...but don't outrightly disbelieve it either. As he says..."just WONDER"!

AFTHOTWTH gets 3.5 unexplained hauntings out of 5.

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### **Blue Turtle says**

Although I have no reason to believe in ghosties myself, I found it fascinating just reading what Corey had to say about his experiences, his attempts at theorizing and the process of figuring things out for himself. But I think the most admirable thing about this book is how open minded Corey is in all of this. He is completely open to the fact that he may be wrong in all his postulations and he isn't trying to convince anybody of anything - just to open up genuine discourse around the subject of hauntings, souls and poltergeists. Food for thought.

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### **Kira says**

30% paranormal anecdote, 70% hot mess.

i like corey taylor, i like listening to him during interviews, he's an incredibly talented musician. that being said:

this book really needed a strong editor to control the stream of consciousness babble that took up the majority of the work. each chapter would whet your appetite with introductions to his ghost encounters & then just rambled about everything/anything else.

i was really disappointed.

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### **HFK says**

Corey Taylor, one of those rare dudes that would deserve a proper fuck night with me. He is just all the way delicious, I wanna lick and suck all over him before getting some of that magical cock of his, final touch with a delicate suffocation with a pussy act.

So, I wanted to get *AFTHotWtH:(OHIMPwtPaSZaCitP)* out of my way before entering into Taylor's newest book. That book will be the final nail to his coffin in a sense of it being the book that will define his intellectual abilities and capacity, a totem that will show how much honesty his smartness holds.

But, before getting into that one, he is still my soulmate fo sho. It is actually quite scary how much we think alike, and how much we share dislikes and likes, even in the micro levels. That is pretty cool on top of that

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we both love to rant our asses off, we attack religions, we ramble, and chain smoke (well, he quit but whatever).

To me this pretty much sounds like a perfect combination because when I get into my rant mode it makes me sweaty, full of adrenaline, and well, horny as fuck. There would be too much steamy times with this dude, just saying.

*AFTHotWtH:(OHIMPwtPaSZaCitP)* is a bit different book from Taylor as it focuses on his experiences with the paranormal and his thinking route of how believing in the paranormal fits with his atheist world view. In his case it is the claims of knowing versus believing without knowing a thing.

I think his stories and encounters were pretty nice, the kinds you would expect to read when staying in the level headed grounds. His theory of paranormal is plausible, something that with a few fixes and mixes could work properly. This despite do I personally believe or not.

Corey can't write anything without fiercely attacking religions, and as much as he let's God-beliefs get it, his main problem seems to lay in organized religion. He mostly focuses on Christianity as it is the most familiar to him, but he is not afraid to attack other religions either. There is few sentences written out of Islam, which would make few individuals run for their safe space, screaming for hurt feelings.

Fortunately, feelings do not matter shit when there is important subjects to talk about. People = shit.

It will be interesting to see can he keep up with that criticism in our current times when verbally beating the vibrating beards may be considered as phobia. I hope his newest book will offer an answer to that.

As usual, Corey's writing is rambling, a flow of thoughts and wit. I do not think he kept it together here as good as he usually does. I do not think his intellectual level was as top as I have gotten used to. He also had quite an attitude that perhaps came off as condescending more than it should. Not that he would not be right in many things compared to his opponents.

Most people should read Taylor's writings, but this book is just for the heaviest of heavy fans, others probably would not benefit from this much at all.

Mmmmmmm-yummy face.

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## **Matt Kelland says**

"I want to know certain answers if only to be able to figure out the right questions to ask in the process. If I knew where to start, I wouldn't be writing this book."

The way Corey Taylor writes is sheer joy. He's as readable as humorists like PJ O'Rourke or Hunter S Thompson: witty, incisive, merciless, and filled with authenticity. You don't have to like Slipknot to enjoy his books.

## Burgoo says

Sometimes a book turns out to be very different than your expectations. A Funny Thing Happened is an example of this phenomenon. The press for the book describes it as Taylor “journeys through various ghostbusting groups”. That’s not exactly what happens here. What happens is that Taylor discusses some odd ghostly occurrences that he has experienced, including one adhoc investigation performed by Taylor and some friends.

At this point, I should probably mention that I come to this book as neither a metal fan nor a true believer in the supernatural. I do, however, have an open mind, and am fascinated with the phenomenon of paranormal investigation groups. I was hoping that A Funny Thing Happened would provide an interesting view into this subculture.

What did I get? At the core of A Funny Thing Happened is Taylor’s account of his own personal experiences. For the most part, these stories are great. Taylor is a gifted natural storyteller and the casual tone of his writing makes it feel like you’re having a beer with the guy while he tells you some crazy stories. Yes, the stories are weird and creepy, just like the best ghost stories always are.

Unfortunately, too much of the book is devoted to Taylor’s theories about the nature of supernatural entities and subpar rock & roll stories. Now Taylor comes off as a more intelligent guy than you might expect, but I really have no interest in his own pet theories. Think back to the guy telling ghost stories around the campfire – do you care about his theories? Or do you just want to hear more spooky stories? I’m firmly in the last camp.

On the whole I’d say that this book is really for fans only. Taylor puts so much of his own personality and personal life into the book that those who are looking for more will be disappointed.

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## Tyler says

I'm a huge Slipknot fan. They've been my favourite band for 10+ years, but this isn't about a defense of Slipknot. I used to be a Corey fanboy but I'm older now and see more of what he does right and wrong. I read his last book and thought it was decent but not amazing by any means. I feel like teenager me would have been all COREY TAYLOR'S BOOK IS OMG AWESOME!

The problem with both of Corey's books, but moreso with this one, is that he just thinks he's smarter than he is. He's an intelligent dude, don't get me wrong... I've known that for a while. But when he throws out a theory that really isn't the revelation he claims it to be, and does it in a condescending way, it's just not that appealing. I know he's always been very "in your face" about his beliefs, and I appreciate his militant way of going about things at times, but he goes too far. You can be completely sure of yourself without talking down on people.

When he sticks to the ghost stories, it's a great read. It's creepy and he is such a good writer and storyteller (someone said it's like you're having a beer with him and I agree), that it's a real joy to read. I mean it's not really his fault that I went in hoping and expecting something else, but had I gotten more of THAT and less of his theories and opinions (some are okay, way too much time is spent doing this), it would have been great. Maybe it was the same reviewer on here, but he/she also said something along the lines of, "When

someone is telling a ghost story do you care about his/her theories?" That's exactly it. He can throw in a little bit of opinions but honestly, the religion thing is just out of context and boring. The ghost stories are where he shines.

So it's with that I say that this book is a mostly entertaining read, but damn it could have been better, and should have been better, because Corey is a gifted writer... he really is.

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## **Xanthi says**

There was just too much rambling in this book to give it a higher rating. It was all over the place and needed stronger editing.

I also found that the author skipped between colloquialisms and flowery writing, way to often. It was as if he was trying to be 'chatty' at times, and then switching to 'intellectual' when it suited him.

His humour also dipped too far into arrogance.

The section on religion, whilst necessary, given the topic, went on for far too long. He had some interesting points to make but then pretty much ruined it all by fantasizing about God and the Devil as females in bikinis, wrestling in jelly. I kid you not. Could have done without that sexist part, thanks.

A lot of theory in this book and not enough actual ghost stories, which is what readers are probably expecting.

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## **Heather says**

To those who like reading about religion, Corey Taylor is likely to split the masses (not exactly a shock to those who have read *Seven Deadly Sins* ). But where atheists like Richard Dawkins make you want to violently punch walls with their attitude, Taylor brings a dose of humour along with a reflective look at himself. He never slams anyone for their belief, but just makes it clear what he says is merely *his own* belief.

And why is this remotely relevant to a book about the existence of ghosts? Well, as Corey himself says, *"I do not believe in God. [...] So here is the question: How can I believe in ghosts... and not in God? How can I mock the existence of Jehovah and his creepy-winged minions while straight-facedly maintaining that there are ghosts, spirits, poltergeists and haunts among us? How can I go on record with a whole book for that matter, dedicated to my versions of the various events in my life, knowing full well that I might be regarded as a hypocrite at best, a nutcase at worst?"*

Luckily he answers that too: *"The running theory is a case of knowing versus believing."*

Cutting to the chase: this book has the potential for very polarised reactions. If you're a believer of the paranormal, then you'll find his experiences captivating. More so, if you're a Slipknot or Stone Sour fan, you'll find it incredibly cool that Corey is on the same wavelength as you and has the stories to back it. However, if you're a non-believer, this will read like a crazy man's ramblings. Luckily, Corey notes that himself.

For skeptics though, those who sit in the middle ground, this is really interesting. Not sitting fully at one end of the spectrum, the reader can be swung from side to side, finding the stories themselves haunting and unsettling but also finding some moments a little hard to swallow. But is the point to grab you by the shoulders and scream in your face that ghosts exist? Well, no. It's openly concluded that this is just a host of personal experiences, with hope of starting a dialogue into the subject. It's certainly got one person thinking, **and probably a few others.**

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The book is just Corey Taylor. Though the stories may be dark at times, or the science-based stuff might feel a bit too academic to some, his humour and wit is ever-present, as well as his ability to deviate into random trains of thought, with a neat splattering of dick, fuck, fart and shit to boot.

One book I will compare it to is James Kakalios' *The Physics of Superheroes* in that, when you accept a certain exception to how we view the world - the 'miracle exception' - then everything is completely plausible, from Superman's jumping abilities to the Flash's great speed. Though Corey's proposal of 'intelligent energy' is likely just smart conjecture, if you make the relevant exception that ghosts are, generally speaking, completely real, his explanation seems completely plausible.

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven* seems like it's going to be packed with a mass of ghost hunting expeditions and doesn't quite live up to that particular hype, but delivers a lot of personal insight into a side of Taylor's life that many never really knew. It also reads a bit like a personal tour through his homes over the years, with a number of anecdotes thrown in for good measure. For one, it's a really enjoyable read and - regardless of personal beliefs - was well worth it, and at no point do you lose his own personality in the process.

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### **Lita says**

I will say it, I love this book. I am not a Slipknot or Stone Sour fan because I never listened to their music to know if I would be. I discovered Corey Taylor (amazing vocals on Can to Can't) through the Sound City project and as research does, I stumbled upon the fact that he is a writer. Anything about ghosts will catch my interest so I sought out the book and read it in one day. I haven't done that since reading Mötley Crue's bio.

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Heaven* is not for the small of mind. Corey clearly states his beliefs in the paranormal supported by his personal experiences, some with witnesses. This is not a platform simply to prove he is right. The book, while entertaining the reader with his wit and fantastic stories, poses questions to make the reader think. Maybe I embraced the book because he brought out so many discussions that I have had myself and have come to the same conclusions.

If you have an open mind and make it through the book, you'll have a whole lot of questions to ponder when you finish reading it. That's a good thing. This books sets out to start a conversation and if it does, it has achieved it's goal. You might also find out why your lights flicker.

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### **Hannah says**

This is an obvious must read for any slipknot/stone sour fans or general fans of Corey Taylor himself. He's a very funny guy, who always seems to have some quirky snippet of info to share. Which is usually crazy and sometimes quiet enlightening. He is a talented musician, singer and all round a messed up guy. He's taken some dark paths in his life that have almost killed him but made him stronger in the long run. Which made me so very eager to read more of his inner workings.

So it pains me to give this 2STARS, I didn't find this book interesting. I enjoy hearing him give interviews and I LOVED his last book. This however was in simple terms dull.

He rambled on for pages about religion and don't get me wrong, I'm not religious but neither am I atheist.

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This is one issues that bothers me a lot when all facts aren't presented accurately, if you don't believe in religion then why write about it. Yes we all know people like to believe they are superior because, either A)they are crazy religious or B) they like to think they are far to intellectually magnificent to believe in any religion. I truly don't care either way, Corey is obviously well read and we all know he likes to be heard. I just can't help feeling this was a lot of mundane waffle, rather than experience's that change or shaped his life. The arguments he highlighted through out the book were some what amateurish and not very thought provoking, which is what I guess he was aiming at achieving?

The paranormal aspects, which were more or less put on the back burner, were quiet childish in their simplicity but I liked them, they felt raw and perhaps even real though I have no experience of anything supernatural myself, I could still see the potential for some great story telling.

I'm not quiet sure as to what the purpose was of this book, though perhaps there was none and it was just some light entertainment, though the subjects he presented were anything but light. I think one book was plenty from one of the most talented musicians in rock.

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