

The Books That Stir Us:

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Reading is universal and enjoyed differently by everyone. I personally prefer reading that is relatable to me and something that I can learn from. The book The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom does just that. This book presents a new and different way to think about heaven. In this book it is believed that once you reach heaven you will meet 5 people that in some way influence your life, whether you know it or not. These people help you to understand how they impact your life and then you move on to find your place in heaven. The book begins with an ending; an end to a man's life, though it is the beginning of his journey to heaven. The character in this story dies in an accident at work and begins his journey to meet his five people. This book has changed my mindset and influenced me today, in the present, as well as in the future.

Since reading The Five People You Meet in Heaven I try to live every day and not miss out on anything because of fear. I don't mean that I live every day happy and in a good mood, because that is impossible. But I do try to appreciate what I have. This book will humble a reader, and have one stop and reassess how their living. Also highlighted in this book is helping others. The man dies trying to save a little girl at an amusement park. Even the slightest gesture that one can do for someone else could be of much importance to someone. I try and help as much as I can. I read this book my freshman year in high school and I'm now a freshman in college. Once reading this I have volunteered in countless groups in my high school. If there was a chance for me to help I was there. It's gratifying for me to know that I can make a difference in someone else's life.

My plans for life in the future have changed as well as life in the present. I have been unsure of the career path I wish to choose and what to do with the rest of my life. The only thing that has been a constant and something that I knew I wanted to do was to help others. I want a career

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where I can change other people's lives for the better and help. Whether it's here or in other countries, all I'm sure of is that I want to make a difference. This book helped to set the tone for that mindset. Albom's words are so empowering that they make one think about how what a person does can affect so many others. I've read other books by Mitch Albom such as For One More Day and Tuesday's with Morrie. Those also have important messages to learn from.

Many of Mitch Albom's books have a religious theme. This theme helped me to enjoy the book even more because my religion is very important to me. The Five People You Meet in Heaven changed my mind set about religion as well. Since heaven is described differently by everyone it was interesting to hear Albom's opinion of what it is like. This idea gives me a chance to consider a different way of viewing heaven, but still keeping its mystery. I remember that once I finished the book I sat and contemplated who I thought would be the five people that I would meet when I go to heaven. Creating that thought at the end I think was Mitch Albom's intention. It also causes you to think about everyone who you might have affected and helps to remember everyone; big and small.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven is one that I recommend to all of my friends. I passed it around to all of them and they have enjoyed it as well as I have, and learned the same lessons. This is my favorite book and one that I have been able to learn the most from. I've acquired more appreciation for life and everything that I have. It has opened my eyes to volunteering and helping others, all while changing my mindset and thoughts about heaven at the same time. This book has affected my life in the present and how I live every day. It has also changed my future and career path decisions.