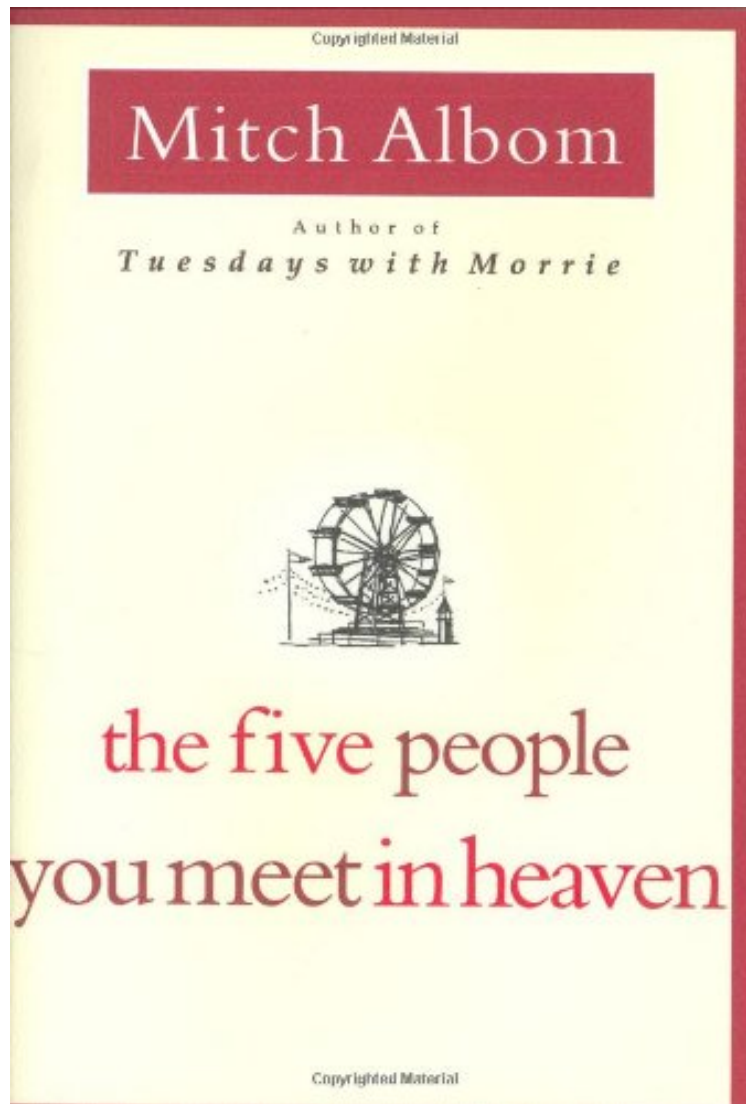


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## The Five People You Meet In Heaven

*Mitch Albom*

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**Mitch Albom : The Five People You Meet In Heaven** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Five People You Meet In Heaven:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. among the 2 best books I've read in my life.By JanaI read alot! My middle school was spent at the library with the main purpose of reading through the whole library before high school (and the secondary purpose of hiding from tormentors). I like the classics and the parts of modern litterature that battles the deeper questions of life, and which can feed my philosophical hunger. This has driven me away from books

in my native language (which favors the crimi-genre) and into the arms of brilliant foreign writers. And this book is a top-seater. It is absolutely Brilliant. Not at all what I expected - but then again: what DO you expect to see in heaven? The reader follows Eddie on his journey through death, a journey in which you lose track of time, you are surprised, you wait and you hope, but you never really fear - he did after all, make it to heaven. Albom offers a really interesting take on the afterlife, and when the book is finished you sit and wonder: could it be like this? how else would it be? The book is as full of questions as it is of answers - only not necessarily to the corresponding questions and answers! Nonetheless, there is much wisdom and many new thoughts to be had from this little book. To say much more would spoil the surprise. But this is the one book you MUST read. A story touching upon the meaning of life and death, and inspiring us to make peace with the journey there. Cause', what are the really important things in our lives???

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Book! By Louie Morsy I thought it was really good, but I would not read it again. The book is centered around an old man named Eddie who passes away at the beginning of the story. Eddie goes to heaven and there he meets with five different people. These people are all connected to him in different ways, some of them he knows and some of them he has never met before. The author Mitch Albom has given us an interesting perspective on what may happen once we die and this story has made me consider certain aspects in life more deeply. Looking back at the book I don't really share many connections with the people in the story, but I definitely recommend it to those who are interested as I believe this is a good read!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. like this one By Dr. Miriam Shachak Some books, like this one, do not need a review. They need/ you need - to read it. That's all. What a magnificent way to show us all that we are all connected, whether we are aware of it or not. We impact each other directly even if we only hear about it when we are in Heaven. Knowing about it in real time means that you have evolved beyond the restraints of ordinary humans. Good for you!!! Being simple is rather helpful in listening to all the insights that are likely to flood you while reading. No spoilers: I promise. Just buy a book and read it. Now. This minute.

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him, as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his "meaningless" life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: "Why was I here?"

.com Part melodrama and part parable, Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* weaves together three stories, all told about the same man: 83-year-old Eddie, the head maintenance person at Ruby Point Amusement Park. As the novel opens, readers are told that Eddie, unsuspecting, is only minutes away from death as he goes about his typical business at the park. Albom then traces Eddie's world through his tragic final moments, his funeral, and the ensuing days as friends clean out his apartment and adjust to life without him. In alternating sections, Albom flashes back to Eddie's birthdays, telling his life story as a kind of progress report over candles and cake each year. And in the third and last thread of the novel, Albom follows Eddie into heaven where the maintenance man sequentially encounters five pivotal figures from his life (a la *A Christmas Carol*). Each person has been waiting for him in heaven, and, as Albom reveals, each life (and death) was woven into Eddie's own in ways he never suspected. Each soul has a story to tell, a secret to reveal, and a lesson to share. Through them Eddie understands the meaning of his own life even as his arrival brings closure to theirs. Albom takes a big risk with the novel; such a story can easily veer into the saccharine and preachy, and this one does in moments. But, for the most part, Albom's telling remains poignant and is occasionally profound. Even with its flaws, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a small, pure, and simple book that will find good company on a shelf next to *It's a Wonderful Life*. --Patrick O'Kelley From *Publishers Weekly*

"At the time of his death, Eddie was an old man with a barrel chest and a torso as squat as a soup can," writes Albom, author of the bestselling phenomenon *Tuesdays with Morrie*, in a brief first novel that is going to make a huge impact on many hearts and minds. Wearing a work shirt with a patch on the chest that reads "Eddie" over "Maintenance," limping around with a cane thanks to an old war injury, Eddie was the kind of guy everybody, including Eddie himself, tended to write off as one of life's minor characters, a gruff bit of background color. He spent most of his life maintaining the rides at Ruby Pier, a seaside amusement park, greasing tracks and tightening bolts and listening for strange sounds, "keeping them safe." The children who visited the pier were drawn to Eddie "like cold hands to a fire." Yet Eddie believed that he lived a "nothing" life-gone nowhere he "wasn't shipped to with a rifle," doing work that "required no more brains than washing a dish." On his 83rd birthday, however, Eddie dies trying to save a little girl. He wakes up in heaven, where a succession of five people are waiting to show him the true meaning and value of his life. One by one, these mostly unexpected characters remind him that we all live in a vast web of interconnection with other lives; that all our stories overlap; that acts of sacrifice seemingly small or fruitless do affect others; and that loyalty and love matter to a degree we can never fathom. Simply told, sentimental and profoundly true, this is a contemporary American fable that will be cherished by a vast readership. Bringing into the spotlight the anonymous

Eddies of the world, the men and women who get lost in our cultural obsession with fame and fortune, this slim tale, like Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, reminds us of what really matters here on earth, of what our lives are given to us for. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Albom, newspaper columnist and radio broadcaster, is, of course, best known as the author of the astonishingly successful *Tuesdays with Morrie* (1997). This is his first novel. With an appropriately fable-like tone, Albom tells the story of Eddie, "an old man with a barrel chest." But for us, Eddie's story "begins at the end, with Eddie dying in the sun"--at Ruby Pier, an amusement park by the sea, where he spent most days, for despite his advanced years, he worked as a maintenance man on the rides. He dies on his eighty-third birthday trying to save a little girl from an accident. Eddie wakes up in heaven, where he is informed that "there are five people you meet in heaven. Each . . . was in your life for a reason. You may not have known the reason at the time, and that is what heaven is for. For understanding your life on earth." And, not surprisingly, this is what the novel is about: Eddie coming to appreciate his 83 years of mortal life; the novel's "point" is that apparently insignificant lives do indeed have their own special kind of significance. A sweet book that makes you smile but is not gooey with overwrought sentiment. Brad Hooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved