



Edge of Eternity

Randy Alcorn

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Imagine Being Pulled Into the Hereafter. While You're Still Alive.

A disillusioned business executive whose life has hit a dead-end, Nick Seagrave has lost loved ones to tragedy and his family to neglect. Now, at a point of great crisis, he unbelievably and inexplicably finds himself transported to what appears to be another world.

Suddenly he's confronted with profoundly clear views of his own past and personality. At the same time, he's enabled to see, hear, taste, and smell the realities of both heaven and hell—realities that force him to face dangers and trials far greater than any he's known before.

Pitted against flying beasts, a monstrous web that threatens to hold him captive, an evil, brooding intelligence, and undeniable evidence of a spiritual world, Nick must finally consider the God he claims not to believe in.

Walking between two worlds, Nick Seagrave prepares to make decisions that will change his life forever, as he stands on the *Edge of Eternity*.

Edge of Eternity Details

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Author : Randy Alcorn

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From Reader Review Edge of Eternity for online ebook

Donald says

Edge of Eternity is the first book that I've read by Randy Alcorn. After seeing all of the very positive reviews, and being that I love a good Christian allegory, I was excited to dig into Alcorn's book. Without a doubt, Alcorn does an admirable job of putting some things into perspective and makes some nice comparisons. Unfortunately, despite a well intentioned book, this falls very short of others in the genre. Alcorn's characters are shallow and obvious. The dangers in the book are never scary and the antagonist is less than convincing. Instead of weaving a story that lets the reader do some thinking and soul searching, Alcorn has written a book that spells out every possible temptation and pitfall that could possibly fall on a Christian. He leaves nothing to ponder or imagine because everything is spelled out and obvious. Again, the book isn't terrible. There are some good things in there, but if you're looking for a hard hitting allegory, this isn't it. If you're a Christian looking for something to encourage you, then this book might serve that purpose. But if you're looking for something to give a non-Christian with the hopes that it will make them curious or make them think, then it would be a poor choice. Were I not a Christian, I wouldn't have made it through the book because the comparisons are so obvious and the story very wooden. I would recommend instead, Narnia by C.S. Lewis, or if you're looking for something really compelling, The Circle Series (Black, Red, White, and Green) by Ted Dekker.

Melissa Travis says

FABULOUS book. The imagery was amazing, and many truths were well-communicated through the story. Has a very interesting fantasy-genre feel.

Ashley says

This is a cool book- it is one i can turn back to and read again and again.

Sarah Ruut says

Journey into another world -- one with perils and decisions that may seem strikingly familiar!

A first-person narrative, Nick's story of his journey to the edge of eternity will at times feel like one you've been on, even while taking you to an unknown land. It reminded me of classic allegories like Pilgrim's Progress and Hinds Feet on High Places.

Although I wasn't sure about the story at the beginning, deep truths are woven into this fantasy that are worth reading for. If you don't read a lot of fantasy, you may not feel immediately drawn to the story, but I would encourage you to keep reading!

Put your journey toward eternity into an entirely new perspective with Edge to Eternity. Dig into what the Bible says, and it may impact your life for eternity!

(This review was first published on my blog -- sarahrut.com.)

Dwight Coffman says

Great read!

Randy Alcorn weaves a captivating tale of a traveler making his way through this vale of sorrow. The traveler is caught between two very different worlds. Reminded me of a modern day Pilgrims Progress. I highly recommend this book!

Bill Wyler says

Great fiction scattered with biblical truths. Written for those who enjoy Christian fiction with a message and for those who need a reminder of why we are still here. This is a good book to give to a friend. I would highly recommend it for the joy of reading. Some thinking is necessary which is the kind that I like. This is my second Randy Alcorn book to read.

R.F. Gammon says

This was SUCH a good book. Where do I even start? The characters are well written, the plot works great, and the whole thing is such a beautiful testimony to the power of Jesus.

Edge of Eternity is a modern-ish version of Pilgrim's Progress. It tells the story of Nick Seagrave, a fifty-ish man who has spent his whole life chasing after the newest and the best. He has wrecked his family and his marriage, but now he will get a chance to try again. He must walk the red road to the great Chasm, which only the Woodsman's death can cross. This is, obviously, a thinly-veiled allegory for salvation and the Christian walk, and Alcorn executes it so perfectly.

There are very few books that make me cry, but this one did. Randy Alcorn is one of the best authors of this age, and I pray that his legacy will endure for a long time, for he is today's C.S. Lewis.

Ed says

I really enjoyed reading this book. I rate it with John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. If you liked Pilgrim's Progress, you will definitely like Edge of Eternity. Throughout the story you will find familiar Scripture referred to as Nick Seagrave (the main character) tries to find his way heaven.

Omisile Kehinde Olugbenga says

Lovely allegory with a lot of Scriptural truths pictorially presented. May drag initially from the beginning but the whole thing took a lovely shape towards the middle.

Lisa Rathbun says

I enjoyed reading this as an allegory. As a novel, the plot was often disjointed and episodic, but the points being made about life and salvation were clearly communicated. The author did express appreciation to C. S. Lewis and others in his acknowledgements, but I felt that he directly quoted Lewis without giving him any credit much too much from using the term Shadowlands to saying Erebus was just a crack in the tile of Charis (see The Great Divorce) to having a character say, "Everyone you pass on the street will one day be a creature of unimaginable greatness or unimaginable horror", a sentence so close to what Lewis actually wrote that I expected a footnote and was annoyed that there was none. I appreciate allusions as well as homages, but I felt that this came close to being almost plagiaristic. So I wouldn't want to introduce people to this book until they'd read all the Chronicles of Narnia, the Space Trilogy, The Great Divorce, and perhaps Mere Christianity and The Screwtape Letters as well.

I did finish this book longing to live my life whole heartedly for Christ.

Barbara says

Edge of Eternity is the third installation in Ken Follett's extraordinary historical epic, The Century Trilogy.

Throughout these books, Follett has followed the fortunes of five intertwined families - American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh - as they make their way through the twentieth century. Now they come to one of the most tumultuous eras of all: the enormous social, political, and economic turmoil of the 1960s through the 1980s, from civil rights, assassinations, mass political movements and Vietnam to the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, presidential impeachment, revolution - and rock and roll.

East German teacher Rebecca Hoffman discovers she's been spied on by the Stasi for years and commits an impulsive act that will affect her family for the rest of their lives. George Jakes, the child of a mixed-race couple, bypasses a corporate law career to join Robert F. Kennedy's Justice Department, and finds himself in the middle not only of the events of the civil rights battle, but a much more personal battle of his own. Cameron Dewar, the grandson of a senator, jumps at the chance to do some official and unofficial espionage for a cause he believes in, only to discover that the world is a much more dangerous place than he'd imagined. Dimka Dvorkin, a young aide to Nikita Khrushchev, becomes a prime agent both for good and for ill as the United States and the Soviet Union race to the brink of nuclear war, while his twin sister, Tania, carves out a role that will take her from Moscow to Cuba to Prague to Warsaw - and into history.

As always with Follett, the historical background is brilliantly researched and rendered, the action fast-moving, the characters rich in nuance and emotion. A huge and wonderful story which sheds light on events that I thought I knew pretty well.

Jerry says

A crazy thrill ride of an allegory. Loved it!

Katie says

I wasn't too sure at first if I would like this book, but as I read more and more, I was struck by the beauty and genius of this Christian allegory. It made me excited all over again to know the grace of God. Woohoo!

Ben says

Bijzonder boek, fijn dat het op mijn pad kwam. Eerlijk verhaal over het Christelijk leven.

Keiki Hendrix says

‘A non-stop, action packed, personality changing novel destined to be a classic.’

For the Christian struggling through the ever changing emotional roller coaster we call this world and battling the tidal wave of mental conversations we all conduct with ourselves, this is a dynamite book.

Very similar to ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ by John Bunyan and written with many of the same allegorical doctrine, I cannot say it surpasses Bunyan’s great work, but it does come close.

The journey of Nick Seagrave and his travels through another world where Truth is revealed to him in vivid imaginary. His life is changed first by seeing the impact a rampant worldly view of life has on the one’s he loves and then by being given a choice.

His emotions are unearthed and his motivations are examined, what he thought was true is proved to be a lie, what he thought was good is proved to be not so. In the end, he is not forced to choose so much as given the opportunity to choose.

As with all Randy Alcorn books, I simply loved it. Quick and face paced, this is a page turner. Don’t miss an opportunity to get this book read. There are so many real life Christian issues heralded in this book, it cannot help but change the readers perspective. I know it did for me, on many levels.

Reviewed by: Keiki Hendrix
Reviewed for: The Vessel Project

Becky says

Hm. It felt slow, drawn out, disjointed, and choppy. I was bored most of the way through. Maybe I don't have enough patience. Maybe allegory isn't for me. :p

Kim says

Wow! what a great read.....an allegory of the Christian life.....and then just as he thinks he's entering

eternity.....a change I didn't see coming....made me aware to live each day as though it could be my last....and so ever thankful for Grace!

Hannah says

In this book, the central character is whisked into another world—worlds, actually, that overlap. Here he experiences the hereafter, while still alive.

I have mixed emotions about this book. While some of the lessons learned through this allegorical-style tale are valuable and reinforce important Biblical teachings, the writing-style and other story elements were, in my opinion, rather lacking.

I never felt connected to any of the characters save one, they never felt alive. The only one that was well-done was the one representing Christ—the Chasm-Crosser, the Woodsman, the King, et cetera. The main character, Nick...I never even liked him much. A lot of the dialogue and actions felt forced, and some of the jumps in the plotline felt overly-sudden, sprung upon the reader with little to no foreshadowing. The style was very much “telling”, and I kept thinking of ways the book could be re-written by showing instead of telling.

To-date I've only read one other of Randy Alcorn's books, Deception, and I loved it—the characters, plot-logic, style, voice, everything—so in some ways, this book disappointed me a lot. If Edge of Eternity had been shown more than told, some of the scenes could have been mind-blowing—battle scenes between angelic forces, Nick shouting at the one representing Satan, and that fallen one screaming back, glimpses into Charis (eternal life), the Woodsman spanning the Chasm with the Tree and with his life, and the like. The scene with people oblivious to the battle of good vs. evil raging about them while Nick sees it and is trying to warn them also would've been stunning if amped up with a more personal, detailed style.

On the upside, a lot of the analogies/allegorical aspects were great. The rock analogy was one of my favorites. Nick and the other characters were given sacks and told to collect stones whenever they crossed a dried riverbed. Three of the characters collected a lot of rocks, Nick a few, and another character, zero. The trick to it is, when they aren't at a riverbed, the sacks won't open—so they can't see what sort of stones they have collected. It turns out that those stones are their treasures, and if they withstand the fire, impurities are drained away. Inside each of the gems they can see one thing they did for the King—helping an old man, spending time talking to the King, refusing to give into sin, et cetera— and the stones are put inside of a crown for each one of them to lay at the King's feet. No stones means you have nothing to show the King, as one of the characters discovered.

Two others that I also appreciated (out of quite a few) were the thing-treasures. While climbing up a mountain, many people tried to take all of their things with them, refusing to leave them behind even if that meant they made zero progress. My grandmother is one of those wonderful people who has truly learned that “things are things, and people are more important than things”, and this analogy reminded me much of her. Our relationship with our Father, the King, and with the people He created is more important than any mountain load of stuff we “rich Americans” think we can't live without. While we shouldn't disregard anything He has blessed us with, we shouldn't hang onto it as if our lives depend upon it either.

The other analogy I also liked very much were the guardrails, representing guidelines that God has placed along the way to protect us. While descending a steep mountain along a path so narrow they had to travel single-file, Nick and his companions were confronted with a group going the opposite way, away from Charis. One wrong step off the path would gain you a fall off a steep cliff, if it wasn't for the guardrails

placed along the edge. This group didn't like the guard rails, they complained about them, and one actually began removing them. The result? Most of the group slid off the cliff and plunged to a certain death.

So, my overall opinion of the book? The lessons were good, but the flow, characters, and style/voice weren't so great.

MC says

The Bible describes spiritual warfare in Ephesians chapter six, among other places. What if it were possible to roll back the screen of the supposedly tangible, and actually *see* the battles that take place between angels and demons? What if we could see more clearly than ever the actual truth of the spiritual world that we claim to believe in, but so often act as if we do not?

These interesting questions are explored by Randy Alcorn in his book, *Edge of Eternity*. The earlier-reviewed book, *The Chasm* is a later-written adaptation and expansion of part of *Edge's* narrative. In the story, a wealthy businessman, Nick Seagrave, is trapped in a storm on the way to a hunting trip and stay at his cabin in the woods. He finds himself in a strange land where he is attacked by some animals and protected by others.

He proceeds to follow the road to the City of Light, called *Charis*. Along the way, numerous evil forces try to corrupt him and turn him to the path of evil. Well, actually, they *do* turn him to the path of evil, but he is rescued by the working of the King and the King's mighty army.

When he gets near the city, he finds the way blocked by a fearsome, infinite chasm. He despairs of there ever being a way to cross it. What hope is there in any path? Won't he just die in this strange world no matter what he does? Then something interesting happens.

Nick takes part in a brutal execution of an innocent, who turns out to be the King, and is redeemed when the King rises from the dead. The King even helps him and several other of his murderers reach the other side of the chasm. Now placed on his journey with a group of fellow "Chasm-crossers", Nick and his friends must navigate the strange world in which they find themselves, with the help of the "Guidebook".

To identify which book was the "inspiration" for this story would be difficult. I'd say that it is bits of *The Pilgrim's Progress* by Bunyan, Lewis's *The Pilgrim's Regress* and *The Great Divorce*, and a smattering of some of Tolkien's poetry that has facets of journeys to otherworldly realms, as well as tiny bits of, and references to, others. All of these influences are rolled together and used to create a gripping tale that has truly convicted me of the enormous sins in my life.

I see so many of the person that I am, and the sins that I commit, in the fictional person of Nick Seagrave. These include both the supposedly "minor" ones (a nice fiction, there are no truly minor sins), and the supposedly huge ones, all committed by Nick Seagrave. He was a US Marine in Vietnam, and I was a Soldier in Iraq. I won't go further into the comparisons as to what sins or failings, but they are there.

I think to myself how awful I am. I think of how my relationship to my King, Father, Savior, Lord, and God, is not what it ought to be. I am going to endeavor anew to make it what it ought to be. With His help, I will succeed.

Yes, there are some drawbacks in the narrative. The shoutouts which were really neat at first to other

theologians and to Lewis and Tolkien, get mighty tiresome eventually. I found myself rolling my eyes at them. I also felt that I was reading Alcorn's attempt to mimic the cosmic descriptions of song by the angels to God at the end of *Perelandra*, and not a good mimicry either. I also would have liked to have seen Nick's further life as he attempted to ask his family for forgiveness and witness to them. I feel like the story was left hanging.

Nevertheless, the not-so-good parts were even quite good, and who knows, maybe there will someday be a sequel. Perhaps the most significant thing I can say about the novel was that it truly convicted me with this view into a fictional representation of the truth of the spiritual battles going on around us. Please, read this book. Think on what it says. If you don't know Christ, come to Him as Savior. If you're pathetically ungrateful and away from Him, like I am, then turn back to Him as well. Please.

Highly Recommended.

Nancy says

Remarkable!
