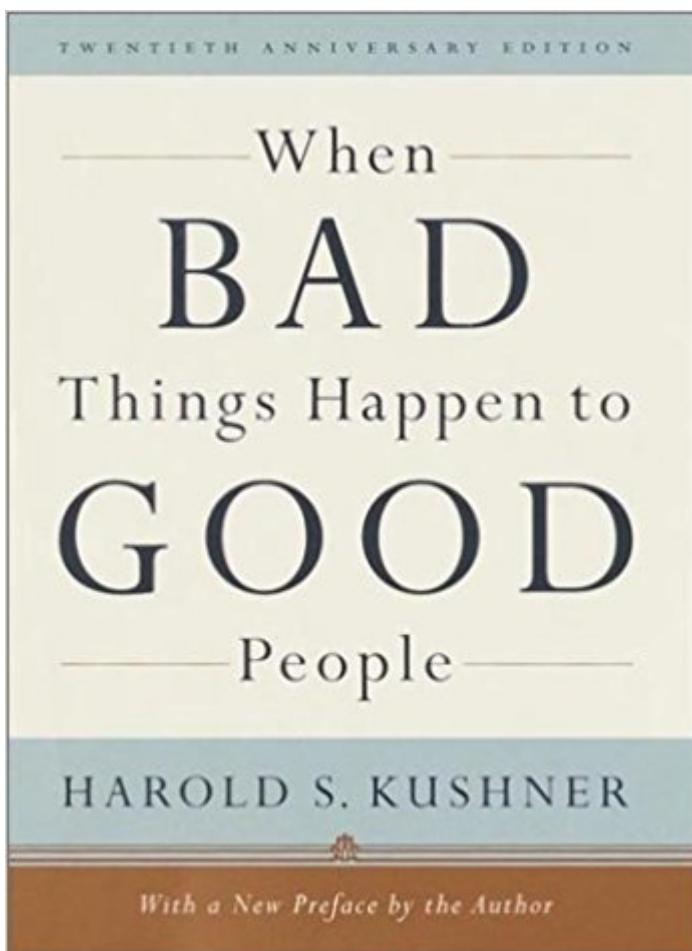


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When Bad Things Happen To Good People: Twentieth Anniversary Edition, With A New Preface By The Author



Synopsis

As a young theology student, Harold Kushner puzzled over the Book of Job. As a small-town rabbi he counseled other people through pain and grief. But not until he learned that his three-year-old son, Aaron, would die in his early teens of a rare disease did he confront one of life's most difficult questions: Where do we find the resources to cope when tragedy strikes?"I knew that one day I would write this book," says Rabbi Kushner. "I would write it out of my own need to put into words some of the most important things I have come to believe and know. And I would write it to help other people who might one day find themselves in a similar predicament. I am fundamentally a religious man who has been hurt by life, and I wanted to write a book that could be given to the person who has been hurt by life, and who knows in his heart that if there is justice in the world, he deserved better. . . . If you are such a person, if you want to believe in God's goodness and fairness but find it hard because of the things that have happened to you and to people you care about, and if this book helps you do that, then I will have succeeded in distilling some blessing out of Aaron's pain and tears."Since its original publication in 1981, When Bad Things Happen to Good People has brought solace and hope to millions. In his new preface to this anniversary edition, Rabbi Kushner relates the heartwarming responses he has received over the last two decades from people who have found inspiration and comfort within these pages.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rarely does a book come along that tackles a perennially difficult human issue with such clarity and intelligence. Harold Kushner, a Jewish rabbi facing his own child's fatal illness, deftly guides us

through the inadequacies of the traditional answers to the problem of evil, then provides a uniquely practical and compassionate answer that has appealed to millions of readers across all religious creeds. Remarkable for its intensely relevant real-life examples and its fluid prose, this book cannot go unread by anyone who has ever been troubled by the question, "Why me?" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, this book features Rabbi Kushner's perspective on how people can better deal with evil that enters their lives. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book offers great perspective. Has helped me as I try to understand my own feelings as I try to be there for my friend as she battles cancer. I read it and then ordered her a copy.

I have wanted to read this book for many years. I have suffered tremendous pain and loss in the past few years. Rabbi Kushner should be praised for his attempt to explain some of the most difficult questions of human existence, but his explanation feels incomplete and unsatisfactory. I particularly take exception to his comment that God CAN'T do all things...that He is not all-powerful. God CAN'T prevent bad things from happening to good people, according to him. I believe that God IS all-powerful and that He created a perfect world. It is humanity that ruined things by sinning. God's only "fault" was in giving humans free choice...and we chose wrongly. Despite this basic disagreement, Rabbi Kushner's love and concern shine through. A wonderful tribute to his son.

There are some books that are perfect for a specific need or time. When bad things is one of them. My daughter recently had a personal tragedy and I wanted to help her but didn't have the words I needed to do so. Rabbi Kushner provided them for me. Caring statement in a context of belief. I bought copies for each of my family members.

My wife has been recommending this to me for years. It really changed the way I see the world. Extremely useful in "helping" professions where you would deal with persons in crisis or who have experienced loss.

This book is excellent, it helps you understand that Nature has it's own way of existing. God created

the world and gave it to us to take care of it. But Nature has it's own way of determining what is going to happen next. For example, in Florida we are always under the threat of hurricanes, while in California you live thinking if the "Big Earthquake" is going to happen or not; the Mid-west states go through tornados constantly and so on. We cannot control that, the same way we cannot control illnesses that have not been found a cure for or what is the cause of it. Bacteria and virus are developing constantly as part of nature, maybe from the same products that WE develop as we discover new things. GOD is not responsible and when you lose someone due to cancer or a new illness, it is not a punishment, is just part of nature. This book helps you to deal with your loss in a very realistic and spiritual way. I recommend it.

My parents made me read this book when my brother died because it was the only book (of many) that helped them. It addresses some common sayings like "everything happens for a reason" etc and it helped me not be angry or blame/write off the idea of a God (even temporarily). You do not need to be religious because the author is not writing this as a preacher. He uses other people's experiences and common sense/logic as to why some things happen and why some things are myths or sayings. If you or anyone you know had a loss in the family or got bad health news I highly recommend this. I am a nurse and recommended it to one or two patient's family members too.

This is an excellent book. It helped me a lot when I was grieving. I would recommend it to anyone who suffered a loss, or undergone any other misfortune. Although it was written by a rabbi, you don't have to be Jewish to benefit from it. It's written for everyone, not just Jews. I liked it a lot.

This is a really wonderful book to help someone move forward through grief of any kind. Gave it four stars due to the fact that it arrived with a bent cover and soiled pages. Supposed to be new via prime. Disappointed because it is a gift for a friend. Illustrates going to the 'little shop around the corner bookstore' because I would have chosen a better copy or had the option to request a discount due to the condition of the book.

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