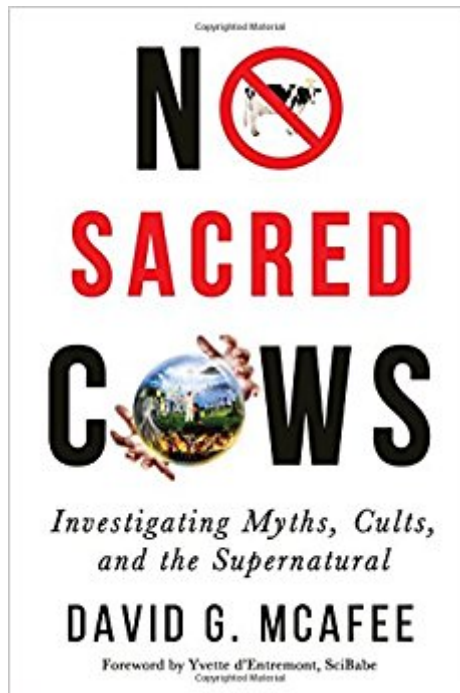




The book was found

No Sacred Cows: Investigating Myths, Cults, And The Supernatural



Synopsis

While belief in religious supernatural claims is waning throughout the West, evidence suggests belief in nonreligious supernatural claims is on the rise. What explains this contradiction? How can a society with a falling belief in God have a rising belief in ghosts, psychic powers, ancient astronauts, and other supernatural or pseudo-scientific phenomena? Taking the same anthropological approach he employed in his notable studies of religion, atheist author and activist David G. McAfee turns his attention to nonreligious faith-based claims. Whether going undercover as a medium, getting tested at Scientology headquarters in Los Angeles, or interviewing celebrity paranormalists and famous skeptics, he leaves no stone unturned in his investigation. As in the case of religion, he finds an unwillingness among "believers" to critically examine their most closely held convictions. Only once individuals honestly assess their own sacred cows will they be able to ensure that their beliefs conform to the known facts; and that our decisions as a society are based on the best available evidence.

Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Pitchstone Publishing (August 22, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1634311183

ISBN-13: 978-1634311182

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #138,848 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal > Ghosts & Hauntings #68 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Cults #126 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal > Supernatural

Customer Reviews

"Feel like you're taking crazy pills? Are you surrounded by a world of dangerous nonsense? Don't worry! You're in luck -- and luck has nothing to do with it. Faster than you can say 'Dunning-Kruger effect,' David G. McAfee's *No Sacred Cows* gives you the tools to: effectively discuss sacred cows with people, solve your own ghost hauntings, use the real power of fake psychics to fight for truth, think like a scientist, tame the biases and cognitive dissonance in

your own treacherous brain, deal with commonly encountered everyday bullshit like
^alternative^™ medicine, climate denial, and homeopathy, and tackle even more toxic bullshit like
anti-vaxers and Scientology, and more. A mustâ “read in an age that seriously needs a reality
check.”â • â”David Fitzgerald, author, Nailed and The Complete Hereticâ™s Guide to Western
Religion series”David G. McAfee’s newest book should be on every skeptic’s bookshelf,
and on every believer’s, too. It is a thorough treatment of a number of topics that inspire undue
credulityâ”some much more harmful than othersâ”but all requiring skepticism. Having interviewed
hundreds of authors on these sorts of subjects over the years, and having read all of their books, I
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of value here.â • â”Guy P. Harrison, author, Good Thinking and 50 Simple Questions for Every
Christian

David G. McAfee is author of Mom, Dad, I'm an Atheist: The Guide to Coming Out as a Nonbeliever, Disproving Christianity and Other Secular Writings, and The Belief Book. He holds a degree in religious studies from the University of Californiaâ Santa Barbara and lives in Southern California. Yvette d'Entremont, also known as SciBabe, is a public speaker, science blogger, and former analytical chemist.

There have been many books on skepticism over the years, many of which tend to offer the same ideas from the same general perspective. I can judge if one is offering new ideas by how often I find myself highlighting passages on my Kindle. Only 32% complete and I have already highlighted 52 passages. Unlike other well known skeptics like Dawkins or Sagan, McAfee does not have a degree in science. But using experts in this book he is able to apply what he has learned from them on to new outlook on life. This allows him to debunk claims without necessarily attacking the supernatural itself, unlike Dawkins. The general idea of this book is to encourage the use of the scientific method by laymen in every day life. If that happens then, through a kind of Darwinian selection such ideas as homeopathy, organic food, and psychics will simply fade away. As a teacher there are many ideas I can use in the classroom found here.

An intelligent, well thought out and challenging read from beginning to end. You'll want to highlight and notate pages. I suggest buying a second copy for this purpose, because you won't want to ruin the first.

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