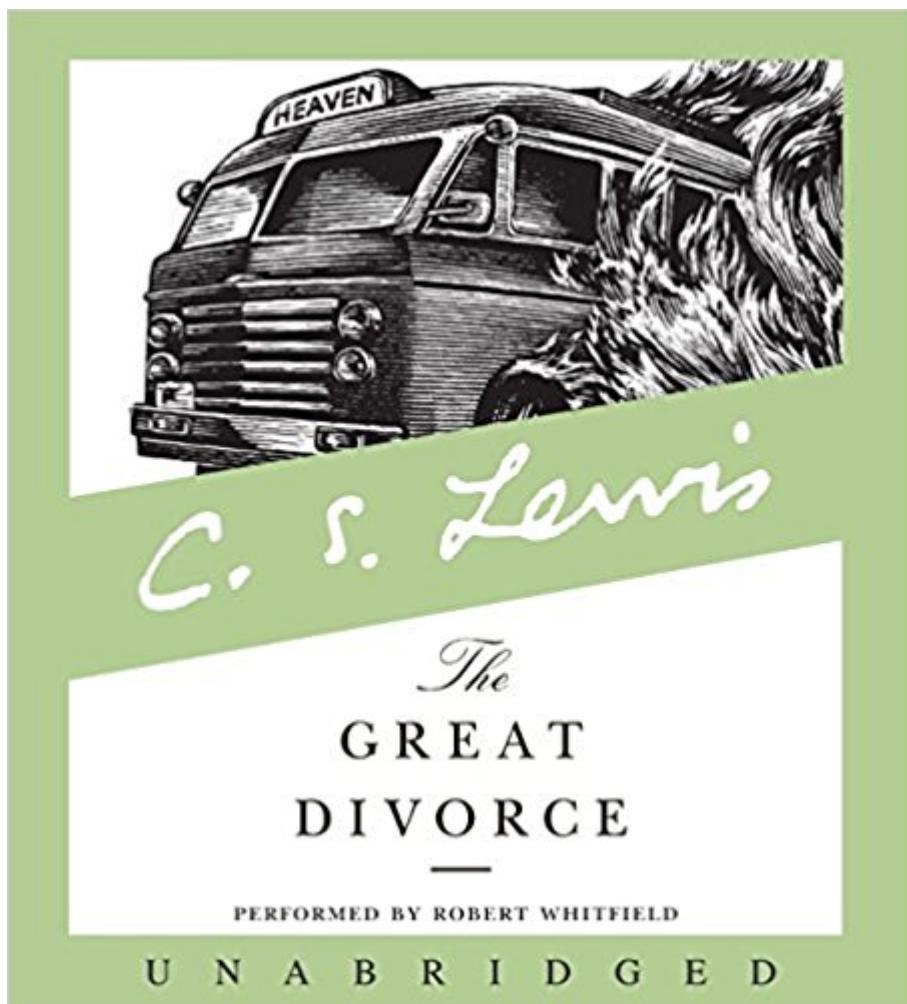


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# The Great Divorce



## Synopsis

In *The Great Divorce* C.S. Lewis again employs his formidable talent for fable and allegory. The writer, in a dream, boards a bus on a drizzly afternoon and embarks on an incredible voyage through Heaven and Hell. He meets a host of supernatural beings far removed from his expectations and comes to significant realizations about the ultimate consequences of everyday behavior. This is the starting point for a profound meditation upon good and evil. "If we insist on keeping Hell (or even earth) we shall not see Heaven: if we accept Heaven we shall not be able to retain even the smallest and most intimate souvenirs of Hell."

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #447,826 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( L ) > Lewis, C.S. #29 in Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Fiction #29 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Religious

## Customer Reviews

The Great Divorce is C.S. Lewis's Divine Comedy: the narrator bears strong resemblance to Lewis (by way of Dante); his Virgil is the fantasy writer George MacDonald; and upon boarding a bus in a nondescript neighborhood, the narrator is taken to Heaven and Hell. The book's primary message is presented with almost oblique tidiness--"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"

However, the narrator's descriptions of sin and temptation will hit quite close to home for many readers. Lewis has a genius for describing the intricacies of vanity and self-deception, and this book is tremendously persistent in forcing its reader to consider the ultimate consequences of everyday pettiness. --Michael Joseph Gross --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

'Mr. Lewis rouses curiosity about life after death only to sharpen awareness of this world.' Guardian  
"Lewis, perhaps more than any other twentieth century writer, forced those who listened to him and read his works to come to terms with their own philosophical presuppositions." Los Angeles Times  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This edition was edited by "Susan Bawtley" (no presence on the internet) by Bawtley Press (no website). No effort what-so-ever has been made to format the book according to any sensible rules of language. Sometimes the letters are arranged vertically, rather than horizontally (see image). It is a travesty to so mistreat Mr. Lewis!! The back cover is a cut and paste job from Wikipedia.

To agree with Sandy, the content is not the problem, it is the edition. There are numerous typos and glaring typesetting problems. I mean ridiculous things, like when the print is compressed into a single column of characters. Find a different edition, DO NOT BUY THIS ONE. I am frankly amazed that allows it to be sold.

CS Lewis brings a great passion filled fiction of heaven in this great tale. Though fiction, one may read it and get a full grasp of what Lewis meant in writing the book; the dark sides of human nature holding onto selfishness and ego, versus the nature of Christ in us that finds its full perfection when we surrender everything and all to Him alone. I found this book captivating, it is a short read but packs some major depth and detail in it. I would definitely recommend this to any follower of Jesus looking to understand more about their flesh, other's flesh, and ultimately our full identity and role as followers of Jesus. One may find many things in common with the "ghosts" in the story, but hopefully you find more in common with the "spirits" in exalting the Lord Jesus above everything, including yourself.

It's hard to single out any CS Lewis' books as his "finest". They all have such extraordinary brilliance around every corner, you'll wonder how one mind could have conceived of it all. The Great Divorce is no exception. If you subscribe to his faith, it will open your eyes to a whole new concept of Hell and separation from God. If you do not, you'll be treated to a fantastic story that probably sounds more like fantasy than philosophy. Either way you'll be glad you read it.

I've read this book cover to cover 4 times and gifted it more times than I honestly know. Not only do I not typically re-read books, but I have never been so fascinated by every single chapter in a

complete book.. C.S. Lewis finds a way to create this fictional Heaven & Hell that challenge modern day theologies and open your eyes to what is personally holding you back from God's will in your life. Each scenario is so thoughtfully played out. The way Lewis toys with this fictional world while bringing to light real world theological, extra-biblical, and personal deviations from God's plan is nothing short of amazing. Thought provoking only begins to explain the depth behind this story. I recommend this book to Christians and non-Christians alike. The story alone is very engaging. Just the idea of a bus going from Hell to Heaven is a great plot line, but this book is not meant for Christians exclusively. Much of C.S. Lewis's past is rooted in these pages and you can see his own personal struggles and theologies and even how he relates them to the struggles of others. I highly recommend this to any reader who seeks to challenge their own thought process and spiritual core. Even if you do not see what I have beyond the story it is an extremely well written piece. It is very important though to keep in mind that it was intentionally written from a fictional point of view and that no assumptions of Heaven or Hell are being made here.

This is a very curious book. When I first picked it up, I had no clue that it would be an excursion into death; more specifically, into what might happen to the soul after death; and even more specifically, into how souls might achieve Heaven or choose Hell. For starters, *The Great Divorce* is not a dry, philosophical book. It is a cleverly written first-person narrative that begins on a bus ride from a dreary town and ends in a lush garden full of creatures both magnificent and wretched. For the passengers on the bus, the garden is so unbearably real and solid that they can hardly stand it at first. Most will find an excuse to get back on the bus. But a scant few will be persuaded to cast off their attachments to life in the town and head off toward the mountains where an inexpressible joy awaits them. It is against this backdrop that Lewis sets up the core of the work--a sequence of vignettes that perceptively describe some of the major reasons why people turn away from the salvation offered by God through His Son, Jesus. These are, in the main, so beautifully drawn and so frighteningly true to life that every reader must find himself in the crosshairs in one or another of them. Lewis is a brilliant writer and thus this book is littered with wonderful little aphorisms. Two of my favorite are: "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell." "Every young man or boy that met her [an anonymous saint] became her son -- even if it was only the boy that brought meat to her back door.... There are those that steal other people's children. But her motherhood was of a different kind. Those on whom it fell went back to their natural parents loving them more." In short, *The Great*

Divorce is brilliant and enlightening. Great food for thought for those traveling through the earthly existence.

The Great Divorce is one of the most accessible works I've read on the topic of "the Great Beyond." It is, in some ways, a lighter-toned parallel to Dante's Inferno, and a thoroughly entertaining read. Thoughtful and easily digested. If I were teaching inquiring/questioning/curious high schoolers or early collegians, I'd put this one on the reading list.

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