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A Barrel of Fun - Book Review

By Lisa M. Hendey

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Rarely do you crack the spine of a book put out by a religious publisher and find yourself giggling out loud, but this was my recent experience while enjoying A BARREL OF FUN (Kregel, April 2004, paperback, 224 pages), the latest from British co–authors J. John and Mark Stibbe.

Written in an A to Z format, the collection features humorous vignettes, definitions, quotes & quips, and even a few great cartoon drawings. Far from just a joke book, however, the book also includes numerous, thought provoking stories, prayers and letters.

The perfect resource for anyone who finds himself speaking before a group or writing about matters religious, A BARREL OF FUN includes a note to church magazine editors from the authors granting conditional reprinting privileges. Readers are encouraged to enjoy and share the material included in the book. Much good and many smiles will doubtless be produced by those who read and share the pearls of wit and wisdom found in A BARREL OF FUN.

For more information or to order A BARREL OF FUN visit

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0825462207/digitalcropper-20>

Lisa M. Hendey is webmaster of numerous family oriented web sites, including

<http://www.CatholicMom.com>, <http://www.ChristianColoring.com> and <http://www.digitalcropper.com>. A wife and mother of two sons, she is an avid reader.

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A Bad Book Review? You Aren't Doomed. Here's Why.

By Laura Hickey

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When you get a bad book review

You've just been notified a review of your book has been posted. You're all excited and can't wait to see what has been written. You're clicking onto your book's page when...Oh no! They hated your book! This bad review is going to turn away customers from buying your book. Wait! This isn't the end of the world. Here's 3 tips to deal when you get a bad review.

1. You can't please everyone!

Example: One of my favorite authors is a bestseller but the author didn't receive such hot customer reviews.

Another example: I was reading some book reviews and one of the books had one of the worst ratings ever. I clicked the link with curiosity to find over 20 customers had reviewed the book and loved it. In life, you can't please everyone. Will a bad review discourage future customers? On to my next tip.

2. A bad review doesn't have to mean bad profit.

Not all customers look at a bad review as their only guide to buying. In fact, if your review is so awful, they may even buy the book to see if it's really as bad as the reviewer rated it. There's the saying that curiosity killed the cat, curiosity in this case could help you. Customers also realize that everyone has different tastes. Maybe the reviewer didn't like your book, but who's to say someone different won't? It may be bad publicity, but none the less it may help you. In fact, sometimes a customer may have read the bad review but only remembers your name and or the book's title.

3. If you're getting more than one bad review.

It's understandable if you're disappointed. It's expected, but do not allow yourself to become discouraged. If you've published an e-book and can easily edit your work, bad reviews can actually help your writing. Now don't go crazy and change everything! But if reviews are constantly pin pointing on one certain area, review your work and see if and how you could improve it. I know reviewing repeatedly can be hurtful but if it can help your e-book, isn't it worth considering? Also, don't start picking apart reviews right away, give yourself time to go over them. Picking apart your reviews the moment you receive them could prove fatal to your self esteem.

Author of Mysterious Chills and Thrills for Kids. Ten Short Stories to Tickle the Imagination. "Spooky" "Awesome" "Unpredictable" Isn't it time you entered the world where shadows lurk and each page turn

could be your doom...<http://www.laurahickey.com>



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