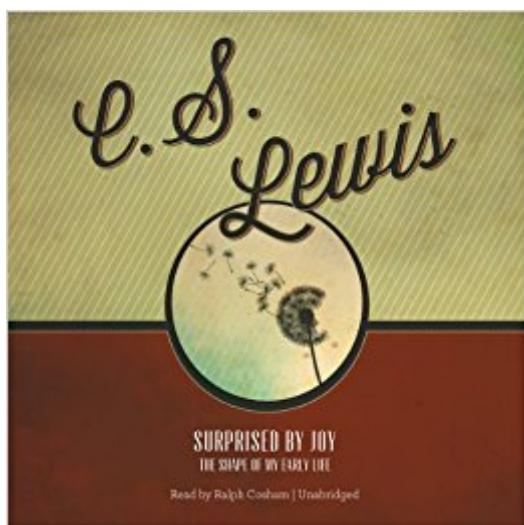


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# Surprised By Joy: The Shape Of My Early Life (Library Edition)



## Synopsis

[Library Edition Audiobook CD in vinyl case.] [Read by Geoffrey Howard (aka: Ralph Cosham)] In the closest thing we have to an autobiography, C.S. Lewis, an unfailingly honest and perceptive observer of self, here shares the story of his personal spiritual journey. With characteristic candor and insight, he describes how his "search for joy" led him from the conventional Christianity of his childhood to a youthful atheism, and finally back to an assured Christianity compatible with his formidable intellect. Lewis's "surprise" holds continuing interest not only for admirers of his work but for any modern seeker concerned with the compatibility of the rational and the spiritual.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fascinating." --Nation "He is admirably equipped to write spiritual autobiography for the plain man, for his outstanding gift is clarity. You can take it at two levels, as straight autobiography, or as a kind of spiritual thriller, a detective's probing of clue and motive that led up to his return to the Christianity he had lost in childhood." --Sunday Times"Anyone approaching this book as a study in the psychology of conversion will find the greatest interest in the dual paths - intellectual and intuitive - which converged at last. But the casual reader looking merely for an enjoyable book will equally value many other parts." --Saturday Review"Since St. Augustine's meticulous analysis of what was the light, what the color, what the sound, the smell, the touch, what, indeed, was the good he loved when he loved God, few writers have taken the trouble to distinguish, with such clarity of psychological insight, the nature and the degree of attraction, the nature and the degree of satisfaction, apprehended by man." --Commonweal

"A young man who wishes to remain a sound Atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere God is, if I may say it, very unscrupulous." This book is not an autobiography. It is not a confession. It is, however, certainly one of the most beautiful and insightful accounts of a person coming to faith. In this case, that person is C.S. Lewis and his path takes us from a childhood in Belfast through the loss of his mother, to boarding school and a youthful atheism in England, to the trenches of World War I, and then to life at Oxford, where he studied, read, and, ultimately, reasoned his way back to God. It is perhaps this aspect of *Surprised by Joy* that we believers and nonbelievers find most compelling and meaningful; Lewis was searching for joy, for an elusive and momentary sensation of glorious yearning, but he found it, and spiritual life, through the use of reason. In this highly personal, thoughtful, intelligent memoir, Lewis guides us toward joy and toward the surprise that awaits anyone who seeks a life beyond the expected. "Fascinating." -- "The Nation" "Lewis tempered his logic with a love for beauty, wonder, and magic . . . He speaks to us with all the power and life-changing force of a Plato, a Dante, and a Bunyan." "Christianity Today" "The tension of these final chapters holds the interest like the close of a thriller God moves, indeed, in a mysterious way, and this book gives a brilliant account of one of the oddest and most decisive end-games He has ever played." "Times Literary Supplement" C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis (1898-1963), one of the great writers of the twentieth century, also continues to be one of our most influential Christian thinkers. He wrote more than thirty books, both popular and scholarly, including *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Four Loves*, *Mere Christianity*, and *Till We Have Faces*." -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Take note - this product is "print to order" which means that when you order, it is printed and shipped out. Mine has a production date of November 4, 2016. Unfortunately, there are several attributable flaws in *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* which make this a poorly produced item. The first printed page contains a simple listing of the content and a forward by C.S.L. 1 - There are no page numbers 2 - The typeset and layout are fatiguing to the reader with indistinct paragraphs and only vague chapter divisions with no break in pagination. 3 - There are many typos and "orphaned" words and sentences. I counted five on the 12th printed page alone. I suggest you seek a standard published and printed version of the book.

I only give this two stars to represent the content itself being very good - otherwise I would give it one. I rarely take the time to review books, as a busy Mom of four, I barely get time to read them

much less review them. But I thought customers should know this book is strangely and terribly printed. If there are other reviews saying this then I guess I should have read them. It has missing words, missing or wrong punctuation, numbers in the place of letters sometimes..! What?? I can still make out the story so I will deal with it, but it sure is annoying. I have attached a couple photos so you can play the see-how-many-typos-you-can-find game. Undoubtedly more than in this hurried review. It's like a college paper before any edits, typed in haste and delirious from lack of sleep... Order from another seller and enjoy intriguing autobiographical writing from dear old Jack (Lewis).

As I write this (Dec 29 2012), I would say this has been the most influential book in my life. As I re-read my initial review (Feb 28, 2014), I would say this book began phase 1 of my development after college. One of the first books I chose to read for myself. Very Very influential for me. I have since moved on and wouldn't call it the most influential, but I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without it. I am no longer in vocational Christian ministry, but anyone in Christian ministry should read this. The review: I would love to give it 5 stars except the middle third of the book was so dry! I don't understand why he put so many details regarding his school days! He was raised in a nominally Christian family, but gave up his faith at 13. He was in many different studying situations (if I remember correctly, even homeschooled for a couple years). In college he kept running into thinkers he deeply admired, who were also Christians. He would say they were excellent people, but couldn't believe they were Christians too... Tolkien was the culmination of these people. The way he describes his pursuit of god--like the mouses pursuit of the cat, is great. He also has some one liners like "I somehow had smuggled in the idea that what I wanted was pleasure, but I got pleasure and found out it wasn't what I wanted" and something like: pleasure is available on demand, but joy is available only as a side effect. For better or worse, this book stops when Lewis is in his mid twenties... a grief observed is a snapshot autobiography of a few years at the end of his life, and offers his insights into his life more matured. It is another must read for Lewis lovers.

No non-fiction has ever captured, described, or brought to light the deepest longings of my heart better than Lewis's "Surprised by Joy." (Though when it comes to fiction, that honor goes to Lewis's dear friend, J.R.R. Tolkien and his LOTR trilogy.) I first read this book a while ago, but I have to periodically return to it, at least scanning through the highlights. It's just as deep and rich on the umpteenth review as on the first, if not more so.

Awesome! Came in a reasonable amount of time but for a great price! You can tell it's an old book

but that just adds to its charm!

I am 27% through this e-book and am enjoying the subject matter; however, there are numerous typographical error. I have already identified 13 errors, and those are just the ones that I have started flagging. There is at least one instance where the word intended is not even discernible - faidty instead of faulty! Since I have not read this book before, and without a well edited hard copy, for all I know there may be countless other errors typographical and grammatical. For \$8.51 I expect a properly edited e-book, after all, they somehow manage to sell paperbacks for ~7.99 that are edited. Finally, while this is not the first poorly edited kindle edition I have encountered on , it is currently the worst. Skip this and buy a hard copy.

Shoddy. Each page had at least one instance in which the OCR or whatever they used to generate this garbage replaced a word with a bunch of symbols.

A CS Lewis classic. Compelling! A must for anyone in search of spiritual truth. Lewis moved from atheism to acceptance of Christianity via a long journey which he recounts in detail. An Oxford and later Cambridge professor, Lewis has a massive intellect. Some sections of this book are more challenging than others but readers are unlikely to put it down without reading through to the end. It's a book many will want to read more than once!

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