

If I Had Lunch with C. S. Lewis: Exploring the Ideas of C. S. Lewis on the Meaning of Life

By Alister McGrath



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What if you could ask C. S. Lewis his thoughts on some of the most difficult questions of life? If you could, the result would be Dr. Alister McGrath's provocative and perceptive book, *If I Had Lunch with C. S. Lewis*. Best-selling author, prominent academic, and sought-after speaker, Dr. McGrath sees C. S. Lewis as the perfect conversation companion for the persistent meaning-of-life questions everyone asks.

What makes Lewis a good dialogue partner is that his mind traveled through a wide and varied terrain: from atheism of his early life to his conversion later in life; from his rational skepticism to his appreciation of value of human desires and imagination; from his role as a Christian apologist during World War II to his growth as a celebrated author of classic children's literature. The questions Lewis pondered persist today: Does life have meaning? Does God exist? Can reason and imagination be reconciled? Why does God allow suffering?

Let McGrath be your insightful guide to an intriguing conversation with Lewis about the ultimate questions.



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Editorial Review

Review

McGrath (*A Life of John Calvin*; *The Dawkins Delusion*) is a busy and prolific writer on Christianity and a number of important Christian thinkers, including scholar and Narnia author C. S. Lewis (1898–1963). McGrath's most notable claim to public attention has perhaps come from his unashamed confrontation with the champions of the "New Atheism," particularly Richard Dawkins. This unassuming book is a very straight¬forward introduction to the Christian thought of the perennially popular Lewis. The author's rich familiarity with Lewis's work is beyond question; his expositions are most effective where Lewis's arguments are weak or inconsistent. ¬**VERDICT:** Lewis is such an effective writer that it is a challenge to come in his wake, but ¬McGrath's affectionate treatment helps to set his subject in a contemporary context and should appeal to both reading groups and individuals going beyond the Narnia novels and into Lewis's apologetics. (Library Journal)

About the Author

Alister McGrath, one of the world's leading Christian theologians, is Professor of Theology, Ministry, and Education at King's College London, and head of its Center for Theology, Religion, and Culture. Before moving to King's College, he was Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University and is currently Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester at Oxford. Author of *C. S. Lewis—A Life*, McGrath has a deep knowledge of Christian theology, history, and literature that allows him to interpret Lewis against a broad backdrop, presenting a fascinating portrait of the development of Lewis's mind and his impact on Western culture.

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