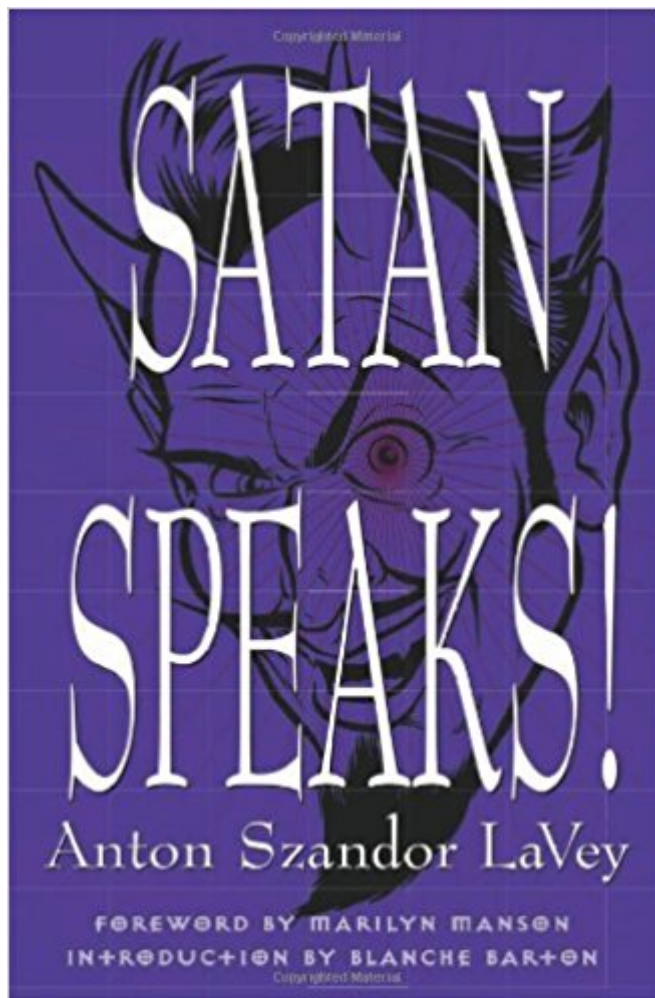


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Satan Speaks!



Synopsis

The last book of essays by Church of Satan founder LaVey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I am a fan of this and all of Anton Lavey's books, this one would probably be my least favourite. He goes off on a few rabbit trails and rambles a bit, sometimes to the point that you're not totally sure what he means. Still, there is plenty of knowledge and insight to be taken from Satan Speaks. It was written when LaVey was an old man close to death, which means you get his final, most complete view of the given topics near the end of his life experience. Cynicism and sarcasm abound, as well as his trademark dark humour.

When I read this book, for some reason it makes me think about Anton packing his bags and saying "I'm done here." Especially the first few essays, when he talks about the apocalypse and how it's exactly how Christian America made it to be. I'm not sure exactly what this thought means, being as I don't believe in an afterlife. Perhaps his death was a departure from reality and then his vitality was transformed into our fond memories of him. Mr. La Vey was a very opinionated man and this work reflects that. It's as casual as a book can ever be and is funny too. I especially like the essay on how he dislikes music played in stereo rather than with a single speaker. I swear, he's the only person I've known who dislikes stereo. I own the Satanic Bible and have read it many times, despite being scared of it when I first bought it. Of all the books Anton wrote, I would give this one to people

who are interested in Satanism but don't know where to start.

If you're interested in what modern (LaVeyan) Satanism is all about, read the Satanic Bible. If that lights a fire for you and you want more, read the Satanic Rituals. If you're interested in the ideas of the firebrand who made modern Satanism what it is, read The Devil's Notebook. That book is witty and well-written, introducing such great Laveyan concepts as The Goodguy Badge. I recommend it very highly to people who want to see why Lavey has a following today. In that book, his wit and insight are displayed to very good effect. If you've read all the other books and can't get enough of The Black Pope, only then should you buy this book. This book was Lavey's last before his death in 1997 and it is just lukewarm - lacking the sharpness and punch of his earlier works. The difference even seems to be reflected in the choice of a cover for this book: purple with a cartoon devil head on it instead of the Baphomet. It just seems less sinister and less dignified than the earlier books. This book feels as though it's composed of the pieces which didn't make the cut for The Devil's Notebook. For completists only.

LaVey is still a controversial figure even long after his death, but he was an intriguing thinker and this last book is a great example of that. Not quite as good as The Devil's Notebook it's still a short and easy read with interesting perspectives on Satanism, magic, originality, and sneezing. You might not agree with everything Anton has to say, but it's still worth a gander.

Here LaVey offers his opinions on a wide variety of subjects including social politics, sex, personal hygiene, social conventions, and life in general. Here he presents his opinions often with tongue in cheek humor. Some of his essays are utterly hilarious. Yet, he is often quite serious. LaVey hated pompousness, arrogance, and self righteousness and all throughout his writings he rips into these with a viciousness and rage that could only come from the devil. Having a high opinion of oneself is one thing, but that form of counterproductive, haughty self righteousness was what he hated most, what he called "The Goodguy Badge." His essay on stereo was interesting, "Stereo, Scam of the Century." When you read this essay, you might find yourself saying, "Hey, he's got a point." They introduced stereo not to improve the quality of music, but just to sell more record players and playing systems. And how many people really know the difference between a stereo recording and a mono recording of a piece of music anyway? Most of the time they are standing or sitting too far away from the speakers and not between them to even notice the difference. I myself prefer stereo

since I usually do actually sit between the speakers. But I am quite different from most people. And sometimes I have actually noticed that some music really does sound better in mono than in stereo because the sound actually does tend to blend together. Reading and laughing at his essays, I often think, "He's got a point. I've seen that myself." Agree with his opinions or disagree, you will have fun reading this book, and learn a few things from an old carny.

It's pretty obvious that Anton LaVey is a genius. If you read his essays he basically solves all of the problems that no one could ever figure out and he explains things in a way that even slightly intelligent people can understand. One essay in particular explains how some of the most ridiculously behaved people's behavior can be explained by something like itchy skin, and he does it by examining a Tasmanian Devil. You seriously wish you were as awesome as he was way before you were conceived. If you read this book you deserve a thumbs up.

I am not a Satanist. LaVeyen satanism requires putting ones self above all else, which I cannot do. That being said, LaVey writes well and makes many good points. He was a rebel dedicated to the non-popular, against fleeting fads, and exercises the importance of the individual. He writes with humor, sarcasm and represents the views of the disenfranchised.

This book is profoundly disappointing. I was expecting some kind of interesting or challenging ideas from the essays in this book but LaVey sounds like someone's lonely, doddering grandpa who wants the kids these days to know about his opinions on mundane topics. I'm sure this book comes highly recommended from all of his friends at the senior center but it just isn't worth the money.

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