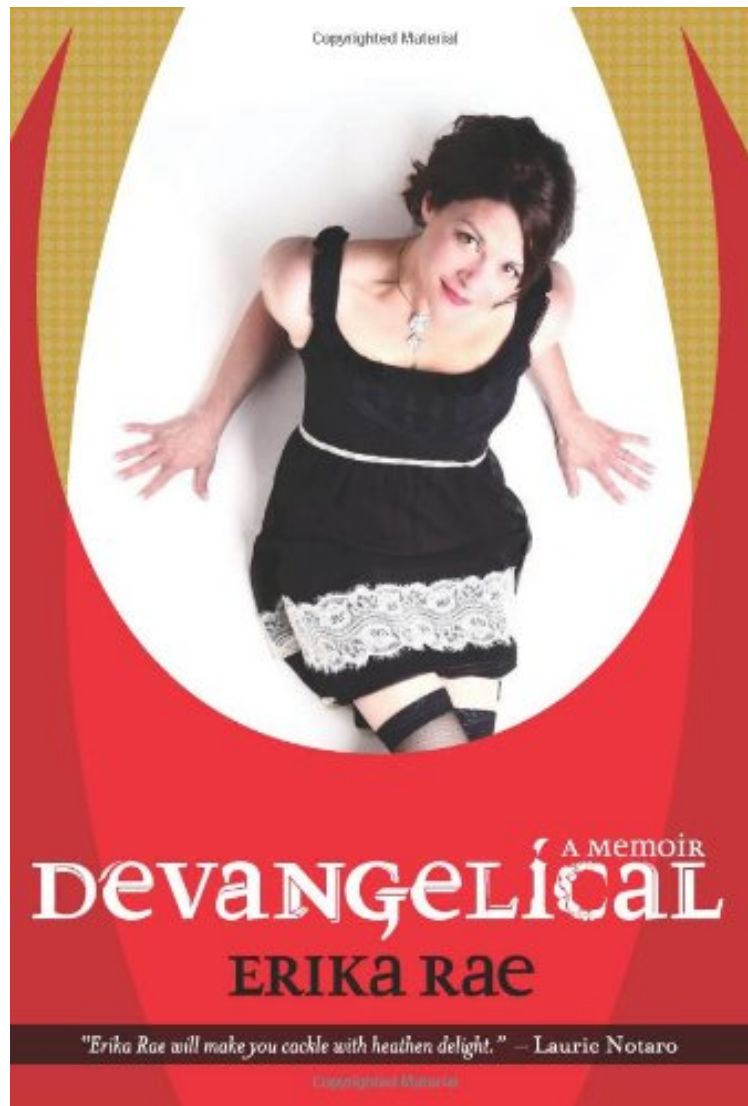


## Devangelical

*Erika Rae*

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**Erika Rae : Devangelical** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Devangelical:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No hatchet jobBy D.M.Before I read Devangelical I'd seen some of Erika Rae's work on the internet (at The Nervous Breakdown) and I knew her to have a wicked sense of humor and a rapier wit (and to be a graceful writer, as well). I expected to see the same Erika Rae in Devangelical, and I wasn't disappointed.I was ready for a hatchet job, but I didn't find one. It's very easy to make fun of those evangelicals, and in most cases I'd say they richly deserve it. But that's not what you'll find here.Sure, she makes fun of any number of

beliefs and situations (the youth fellowship material is hilarious) but insults no one. It's clear that her beliefs have changed (and it's clear why) but she's gentle with those whose beliefs haven't, and I think that's important. Rae writes almost as a modern reflexive ethnographer would about another culture. Having participated in it, having observed it, she can write as both an insider and outsider, within herself and stepping outside herself. If I were still teaching anthropology I'd seriously consider it as a supplementary text in an intro course. I'm not interested in the evangelical belief system (I'm familiar enough with it to reject it entirely) but I do have an interest in what we might call the "daily life" of people immersed in it. *Devangelical* offers a look into those daily lives, both among young people and between generations. I found it fascinating.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You need to laugh, you can relate, and you aren't judged.

By Benjamin Monlezun This book is relevant because it's a topic of the times whether it's debate, it's personal journey, cultural statistic reports, news headline, whatever! The best part about Erika and her book is that she isn't condemning anything or anyone. She accounting an adolescent and teenage experience and pointing out not just absurdities of the evangelical system, but how invisible the absurdities were/are to most people that can't see things from the outside - there's a story here. The next best part about the book is Erika's ability to be smarter than a critic - using humor to make sense of her life. More and more people should understand how to take life a little less seriously and yet look inward so deeply to know where you came from. Please read this book. And enjoy your time reading it because laughing is healthy, so this book may add years to your life.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sweet, Funny, Real

By JM Blaine Heaven knows we need more books that talk about God and church in ways that don't make us feel any worse than we already feel about those things - like we can speak from the heart and tell the truth and not have to invent artificial resolutions and shiny happy Christian experiences where everything turns out bright. Because that's simply not real life. Erika Rae's story of growing up evangelical is sweet, funny real -- that's a happy ending in itself.

*Devangelical* is an irresistibly funny and irreverent memoir about Erika Rae's experience growing up in — and out of — the Evangelical church in the American Bible Belt. As an adolescent who is expected to be hot for God, and not boys, Erika dreads that the Rapture will come before she gets to have sex. All the while she survives exorcisms, radical taboos, satanic back-masking on records, muscle men for Jesus, and cool, mulleted youth group leaders. Eventually Erika emerges as a young, married adult in spiritual limbo. *Devangelical* is a political and personal exploration of how the Evangelical church affects us all. For Erika Rae, it means a smart and honest shedding of baggage. A lot of heavy, scuffed-up, duct-taped baggage . . . with clowns inside.

“I'm a believer that Erika Rae will make you cackle with heathen-like delight throughout *Devangelical*.”—Laurie Notaro, author of *The Idiot Girl's Action-Adventure Club*, *I Love Everybody (And Other Atrocious Lies)*, and *There's a Slight Chance I Might Be Going to Hell* “*Devangelical* strikes a darkly funny blow at the central nervous system of evangelical Christianity delivered by a former insider.”—Frank Schaeffer, author of *Crazy For God* “I swear to God, I couldn't stop reading Erika Rae's *Devangelical*! It is a charming, original, hilarious, and insightful trip into the mind and soul of a young Evangelical girl.”—Jessica Anya Blau, author of *Drinking Closer to Home* and *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties* “Whether you think Erika Rae is a prophet of truth or a whore of Babylon, you have to admit she's a sinfully sublime writer. Her memoir is a triumph: honest, profound, sexy, and funny as all hell.”—Greg Olear, author of *Fathermucker* and *Totally Killer* “A book to make you sad for the entire human race, and yet hopeful for all its individuals.”—Ben Loory, author of *Stories for Nighttime* and *Some for the Day* “*Devangelical* is a must read to understand the culture of fundamentalist Christians. Erika Rae shows what goes in inside the minds of teenagers growing up in the faith.”—Tony DuShane, author of *Confessions of a Teenage Jesus Jerk* “Erika Rae would have gotten me in trouble in as a teen. *Devangelical* is the ultimate hysterical note passed down the church pew, eliciting uncontrolled, out-loud laughs in the face of propriety.”—Slade Ham, comedian, *The Whiskey Brothers* comedy group “*Devangelical* reads like an exorcism. And I mean that in the best possible way.”—Brad Listi, author of *Attention. Deficit. Disorder*, founder of *The Nervous Breakdown*, and host of *Other People*