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PLBK5H - ESSENCE DOMINIK

The inspiring story of one man's journey through extremes of light and darkness to reach a place where he can be a smile on God's face for many people. Confined to a wheelchair, Philip Iltott's life radiates the compassion of a caring God, despite overwhelming odds. Philip's spirituality also clearly demonstrates that God has not put all his denominational eggs in one basket. When David Herrick receives an invitation to a reunion from a long forgotten acquaintance, his first reaction is to refuse. After

all, he hasn't seen Jenny, Peter or the others since they were all a part of the same youth group two decades ago. Moreover, he isn't feeling very sociable since his wife Jessica died six months ago. But the invitation comes from Angela, one of his wife's oldest friends—and mysteriously, she has something for him from his beloved Jessica. Reluctant but curious, he makes his plans to visit Headly Manor. When the friends gather, they no longer resemble the fresh-faced group of twenty years ago. Each member bears the weight

of their own burden. One has been deserted by her husband, another has lost his faith and another is filled with anger and bile. Life hasn't been the sugar-coated existence they might have hoped for. As they have less than forty-eight hours with each other, they decide to be vulnerable and share their greatest fears. Will they have the courage to bare their souls? And if they do, how will such revelations be received? Will they find a way to lift each other up or will their burdens be too much to bear? This poignant, moving and some-

times disturbing story blends Adrian Plass' rich style of humor with his knack for addressing the deep issues we all face, such as faith, grief, love...and fear.

Few will fail to feel blessed by the warmth and humanity of Mick's ministry - a man whose primary concern has become the good, the growth and the wholeness of others

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION FEATURING A BRAND-NEW INTRODUCTION FROM CAITLIN MORAN 'My comfort read. The best diaries ever written' ADAM KAY, GUARDIAN 'Every child in the country should receive a copy on their thirteenth birthday' CAITLIN MORAN 'One of literature's most endearing figures. Mole is an excellent guide for all of us' OBSERVER _____ Friday January 2nd I felt rotten today. It's my mother's fault for singing 'My Way' at two o'clock in the morning at the top of the stairs. Just my luck to have a mother like her. There is a chance my parents could be alcoholics. Next year I could be in a children's home. Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life as he writes candidly about the dog, his parents' marital troubles and life as a tortured

poet and 'misunderstood intellectual.' Forty years after it first appeared, Sue Townsend's comic masterpiece continues to be rediscovered by new generations of readers. _____ 'Townsend has held a mirror up to the nation and made us happy to laugh at what we see' SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 'One of Britain's most celebrated comic writers' GUARDIAN

The whole idea of the SERIOUSLY FUNNY tour was for Adrian Plass and Jeff Lucas to let people in on their conversations about God, life and the universe - and it went pretty well. After all, that's pretty much what they've been doing in their separate writing and speaking careers all these years. All told, people seemed to like the way their trademark styles came together and shed light on even the most difficult subjects, in a way that perhaps made those burdens a little easier to bear. However, as they toured around the country, Adrian and Jeff realised that other people's questions were at least as interesting as their own - possible more so. Eventually they decided they'd better have a go at some answers. This book is the result. They may not have got the answers right,

but they have certainly had a good time along the way - and they hope you will, too.

"Halfway through the service our minister asked the congregation a question. 'For you,' he asked, 'what is the most important thing in the world?' Liz and I answered more or less simultaneously. My reply was very proper and holy for a change. 'Salvation!' I cried piously. 'Bacon sandwiches!' suggested Liz, with all the passion and wisdom you would expect from a retired magistrate and area schools advisor for religious education. Yes, I thought to myself. Of course. Bacon sandwiches and salvation. That just about sums it up. A God who can create the indescribable tastiness of a bacon sandwich must be planning something pretty incredible in the salvation line." (excerpt from Bacon Sandwiches and Salvation) Calvinists: Christians whose theology suggests that they might not bother to book their hotel rooms in advance when planning a holiday because they are absolutely convinced that someone else will have done it for them and if they haven't, there's no use trying. Grip: term used by some Christians in their salutation at the end of a letter, thus,

"Yours in his grip." Suggests that God is in the habit of carrying his followers around in a small leather traveling case. Rock of ages: (1) well known hymn which celebrates the security we find in the eternal love of God (2) music produced by the Rolling Stones

Why did Jesus weep at the tomb of Lazarus when he knew his friend was about to be raised to life? Why was it all right for Zachaeus to give away part of his wealth while the rich young man had to give it all? What about that extraordinary passage in Genesis about angels marrying the daughters of men? Although not offering easy answers, Adrian Plass opens up over 40 blind spots, asking searching questions and responding from his own vulnerable honesty.

An unapologetic embrace of the nightlife, this fragmentary novel attempts to capture the feel of debauchery from within.

Miscellaneous Percussion Music - Mixed Levels

A book which takes a wry look at faith and its self-inflicted problems from the pleasurable but insecure viewpoint of an inflated bouncy castle at a children's fairground.

The author tells of his own bounces and his belief that God still loves and catches people each time they bounce and fall.

A spectacular oversize photo book celebrating Africa's most majestic trees—which are now facing an unprecedented ecological threat. Baobabs are one of Africa's natural wonders: they can live more than 2,000 years, and their massive, water-storing trunks can grow to more than one hundred feet in circumference. They serve as a renewable source of food, fiber, and fuel, as well as a focus of spiritual life. But now, suddenly, the largest baobabs are dying off, literally collapsing under their own weight. Scientists believe these ancient giants are being dehydrated by drought and higher temperatures, likely the result of climate change. Photographer Beth Moon, already responsible for some of the most indelible images of Africa's oldest and largest baobabs, has undertaken a new photographic pilgrimage to bear witness to this environmental catastrophe and document the baobabs that still survive. In this oversize volume, Moon presents breathtaking new duotone tree portraits of the baobabs of Madagascar, Botswana, South Africa, and Senegal. She

recounts her eventful journey to visit these monumental trees in a moving diaristic text studded with color travel photos. This book also includes an essay by Adrian Patrut, leader of a research team that has studied Africa's largest baobabs and alerted the world to the threat these majestic trees are facing. Baobab is not only a compelling photo book and travel narrative, but also a timely ecological warning.

A book combining two favourites of Adrian Plass's writing: *The Growing Up Pains of Adrian Plass* and *The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass Aged 37 3/4* along with a new Preface by Plass.

Presents a collection of folktales about princesses, including the stories of a Persian princess who seeks solitude in the mountains, and a princess from Central Asia who marries a bird.

Mysteries are there to be solved. Aren't they? Jack has been working with the Shadow Doctor for a little while now. He thinks he might just be getting to grips with the Doc's unusual approach to helping with people's deep problems. Then, visiting the highly respected leader of a large Christian organisation, Jack sees his friend go

on the attack. However, the encounter reveals secrets about the Doc's past that are beyond anything Jack could have imagined. Perturbed, he makes a list of all his unanswered questions. Where does the Shadow Doctor's unusual name come from? Why is he so stubbornly reluctant to speak about faith in terms that normal churchgoers would understand? Why is Jack not allowed to simply enjoy a moment when God really seems to have spoken through him? And will the Doc finally describe the life-changing experience mentioned by Jack's gran in the letter she wrote to him shortly before her death? Most all, Jack is desperate to pin down just what the Shadow Doctor actually thinks and feels about God. And there is one more issue that Jack feels particularly keenly. How will Doc respond to hearing that, having met a young lady named Aelwen, Jack is deeply in love for the very first time?

'I think I need to explain why I decided to call this book STILL CRAZY. Firstly, because I've been at this writing-and-speaking business for quite a while now, and the passion to share my thoughts still hasn't subsided. Secondly, because I am more

and more convinced that a healthy dose of the right kind of crazy might be just what we need to cope with the ups and downs of modern life, and of faith. 'Join me as we explore some of the strange, funny, puzzlingly pointless little side turnings that, generally speaking, we are too busy to bother with but which might just lead us to the place where we need to be: one place. One thing. One person. 'Lots of laughs along the way. A few tears. It can feel a bit crazy. We'll get there.' From the Introduction From the challenges of growing old (un)gracefully to reflections on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, this is a wide-ranging collection with lashings of Adrian's trademark humour. Whether considering the paradoxes and contradictions of faith and the church, or the unexpected blessings encountered along the way, this collection is thought-provoking and encouraging in equal measure. There are fresh entries from the Sacred Diary and new insights into the world of the Shadow Doctor, and finally Adrian considers the mystery of love, and ponders its power to help us change our world for good.

The hilarious journal of Sacred Diary's Adrian Plass which documents the

mishaps and successes of his seven-day speaking tour.

An "arresting" and deeply personal portrait that "confront[s] the touchy subject of Darwin and race head on" (The New York Times Book Review). It's difficult to overstate the profound risk Charles Darwin took in publishing his theory of evolution. How and why would a quiet, respectable gentleman, a pillar of his parish, produce one of the most radical ideas in the history of human thought? Drawing on a wealth of manuscripts, family letters, diaries, and even ships' logs, Adrian Desmond and James Moore have restored the moral missing link to the story of Charles Darwin's historic achievement. Nineteenth-century apologists for slavery argued that blacks and whites had originated as separate species, with whites created superior. Darwin, however, believed that the races belonged to the same human family. Slavery was therefore a sin, and abolishing it became Darwin's sacred cause. His theory of evolution gave a common ancestor not only to all races, but to all biological life. This "masterful" book restores the missing moral core of Darwin's evolutionary universe,

providing a completely new account of how he came to his shattering theories about human origins (Publishers Weekly, starred review). It will revolutionize your view of the great naturalist. "An illuminating new book." —Smithsonian "Compelling . . . Desmond and Moore aptly describe Darwin's interaction with some of the thorniest social and political issues of the day." —Wired "This exciting book is sure to create a stir." —Janet Browne, Aramont Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University, and author of *Charles Darwin: Voyaging*

LAUGH. CRY. ENJOY. It's time to strip away the hypocrisy and look at Christianity the way it's meant to be! Let internationally acclaimed author Adrian Plass point you in the right direction ... toward authentic faith. With his trademark brand of off-beat humour, Plass pens this unique collection of stories, songs, poems, dramatic sketches and reflections on the sometimes quirky antics of the family of God. On marriage: Arguments in marriage are like pieces of music---with familiar and oft-repeated tunes. On denominations: It's always good to have a variety of flavours available, and it's not a bad thing to educate

your taste buds with the odd sip at a concoction you've never tried. On anxiety: Whole lives are wasted by worry---about the wrong things! On Christian busy-ness: We are very good at kidding ourselves into believing that religious activities equal Christian living. From spinning upbeat tales about the kindness of strangers to spoofing people who don't care with his 'Apathetic Creed, ' Plass will captivate you from the very first page. Discover a rich treasure trove of laugh-aloud moments mingled with heartbreaking anecdotes ... and come away changed.

Evil Corn is the thirteenth collection of poems by this major Native American writer. Like previous collections, this book tracks the author's life, including his experiences inside the modern American English Department.

The whole idea of SERIOUSLY FUNNY was for Adrian Plass and Jeff Lucas to let people in on their conversations about God, life and the universe - and it went pretty well. After all, that's pretty much what they've been doing in their separate writing and speaking careers all these years. All told, people seemed to like the way their trademark styles came together and

shed light on even the most difficult subjects, in a way that perhaps made those burdens a little easier to bear. However, as they toured around the country with the SERIOUSLY FUNNY tour, people kept butting in with their own questions. So Adrian and Jeff eventually decided that maybe they'd better have a go at some answers. This book is the result. They may not have got the answers right, but they have certainly had a good time along the way - and they hope you will, too.

In this second diary, the fictional character Plass is in demand as a public speaker which demands a new diary revealing what has happened to the outrageous Gerald, the joyless Flushpools, incompetent Leonard, the long-suffering Anne and the other well-known characters.

The much-praised writing team of Adrian and Bridget Plass looks at the extent of the AIDS pandemic in Zambia. On visiting this colorful country they saw the problem and what is being done about it from many angles: from preventative projects with sex-workers to the care of orphans. The desperation there left them determined to make westerners see how ordi-

nary families are affected. The stories aren't all negative; however, Adrian and Bridget tell of the World Vision rehabilitation program for girls forced into prostitution enabling training in alternative occupations including hairdressing and tailoring. There were no miracles in Zambia—only the miracle of people allowing God to use them. God acts through us and the truth is that if we do nothing, we withhold His love from them. This is a heart-warming, inspiring, and sometimes even humorous account with a serious message: God won't act to lessen the HIV/AIDS crisis if we don't.

The sleepy, eastern Washington wheat town of Antioch has become a gateway for the supernatural—from sightings of angels and a weeping crucifix to a self-proclaimed prophet with an astounding message. The national media and the curious all flock to the little town—a great boon for local business but not for Travis Jordan. The burned-out former pastor has been trying to hide his past in Antioch. Now the whole world is headed to his backyard to find the Messiah, and in the process, every spiritual assumption he has ever held will be challenged. The startling secret behind this vis-

itation ultimately pushes one man into a supernatural confrontation that has eternal consequences.

The altarpiece is one of the most distinctive and remarkable art forms of the Renaissance period. It is difficult to imagine an artist of the time—whether painter or sculptor, major or minor—who did not produce at least one. Though many have been displaced or dismembered, a substantial proportion of these works still survive. Despite the volume of material available, no serious attempt has ever been made to examine the whole subject in depth until now. The Italian Renaissance Altarpiece is the first comprehensive study of the genre to examine its content and subject matter in real detail, from the origins of the altarpiece in the 13th century to the time of Caravaggio in the early 1600s. It discusses major developments in the history of these objects throughout Italy, covers the three key categories of Renaissance altarpiece—"immagini" (icons), "historie" (narratives), and "misteri" (mysteries)—and is illustrated with 250 beautiful reproductions of the artworks.

The long-awaited, heart-warming and hu-

morous sequel to Stress Family Robinson is here! These are the ongoing tales of the Robinson Family and their efforts to match the image of the perfect Christian family, while in reality they live on a rich diet of love and chaos. All a little older but not very much wiser, the Robinsons (Mike, Kathy, Jack, Mark and Felicity) continue their lives intending to have a plan but never quite sticking to it. Kathy Robinson faces a major emotional crisis which begins on a day when, in Kathy's words, "everything smells of fish." The struggles and joys of the Robinsons are related through the eyes of their trusted friend and confidante, Dip Reynolds, who juggles her various roles as family mediator, counsellor and nurse, while trying to find her own role as the honorary member of the Robinson Family. Dip has her own hurts and is about to reveal a thirty-year-old secret.

In this gentle and humorous anthology of poems, stories, commentary and reflections, Adrian Plass invites us to celebrate Christmas in its many facets. And Jesus Will Be Born is a holiday cornucopia filled with the laughter, tears, family foibles, simple joys and the rich blessings of the season. There's no predicting what the turn of

a page will bring in this Christmas collection by Adrian Plass. It may be a bit of verse to moisten the eyes ... When I'm in heaven Tell me there'll be Christmases without the pain No memories that will not fade No chilled and sullen sense of loss That cannot face the festive flame Nor breathe excitement from the ice-cream air Tell me how the things that Christmas should have been Will be there for eternity in one long shining dawn For all of us to share I love the promises of Christmas. Then again, there is this -- an 'advertisement' from Plass's spoof of a church newsletter: 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news? The answer is -- not very, if they haven't had those ugly corns treated. Christian chiropodist. Special Yuletide reductions ...' Setting the poignant, the mad-cap, the joyous and the tender in artful counterpoint, this is a book to be savored over the entire holiday season. It offers something for everyone in every setting -- family readings, personal libraries and even church pulpits. And Jesus Will Be Born speaks to the full spectrum of our humanity, celebrating the golden Christmas traditions, poking playfully at our seasonal

foibles, observing our less-than-noble attitudes with an eye that is at once honest and gracious -- and always looking towards the Person around whom all that is truly Christmas revolves. In the midst of our festivities, Adrian Plass gently reminds us why we need a Savior. And he points us towards the unfathomable possibilities that have been opened to us, and the joy and hope that are ours, because Jesus was born long ago in Bethlehem and is born today in us.

A laugh-filled, fictional daily chronicle of family and church exploits features Adrian Plass's literary alter ego and a memorable cast of supporting characters.

Adrian Plass gently and humorously challenges the Churchman or woman in us all as we treat the church as if it should be made in our own image. Have you ever wondered how and why the body of Christ is constantly tripping over itself to derail its mission and ward off the world? Or have you ever marvelled at how those less spiritual than yourself can be in positions of leadership? Have you ever had the niggling sense that some other force was at work in that committee meeting? You are not alone. All is revealed in this annual re-

port from Churchmanship Headquarters in Great Malvern, the training ground for all who would carry on the noble tradition of thwarting the work of the gospel among us.

Jean-Pierre Dupuy, prophet of what he calls "enlightened doomsaying," has long warned that modern society is on a path to self-destruction. In this book, he pleads for a subversion of this crisis from within, arguing that it is our lopsided view of religion and reason that has set us on this course. In denial of our sacred origins and hubristically convinced of the powers of human reason, we cease to know our own limits: our disenchanted world leaves us defenseless against a headlong rush into the abyss of global warming, nuclear holocaust, and the other catastrophes that loom on our horizon. Reviving the religious anthropology of Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, and Marcel Mauss and in dialogue with the work of René Girard, Dupuy shows that we must remember the world's sacredness in order to keep human violence in check. A metaphysical and theological detective, he tracks the sacred in the very fields where human reason consid-

ers itself most free from everything it judges irrational: science, technology, economics, political and strategic thought. In making such claims, *The Mark of the Sacred* takes on religion bashers, secularists, and fundamentalists at once. Written by one of the deepest and most versatile thinkers of our time, it militates for a world where reason is no longer an enemy of faith.

Finding Mr Goldman tells of the epic battle of good and evil played out in the life and sudden death of a wicked man. Had he known the hour of his death, the wealthy Harry Goldman might have arranged his day differently. Instead he finds himself plunged into a nightmare in which his life of violence and ruthless greed is laid bare before him. Accompanied by a disreputable looking but likeable tramp, who bears a striking resemblance to Jesus, Goldman sets out on a quest to save his soul. But confronted by the shattering reality of hell, he realises all is lost. It is only then that he discovers the redeeming love of God . . .

Adrian has been trying to keep a low profile at church but his son Gerald is now an Anglican vicar and the two churches

are getting together for a joint weekend away. Now Adrian's been volunteered to run it... From the confusion of arrival when Anne is allocated to the top bunk with a schizophrenic recovery group, and Adrian is in a low-ceilinged 'pod' at the top of the tower, to the hugs and tears of departure, this is typical Plass, humorous and heartwarming in equal measure. Adrian has a simple conversation about birdlife that ends with him being accused of harassment, Leonard Thynn and his wife turn up just in time to leave again after falling out with the SatNav lady, and Gerald's wit just keeps getting the better of him. There are as many questions as answers, of course. Will poor Sally, the unwilling nomad of the community, ever find a proper bed to sleep in? What exactly is it about Adrian's twinkle that Minnie Stamp 'loveys-doves' so very much? And how do you cope when your daughter-in-law shares a secret you simply cannot, must not tell? Once again, Adrian Plass gets us laughing just long enough for the truth to slip in by the back door, and for all the mishaps, this new instalment of the *Sacred Diary* series once again shows just how good God is at caring for this mixed bag of people we call

the church.

Be inspired and amazed by these incredible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander icons! With colourful artwork and evocative writing, this book tells stories every Australian should know. Powerful and exciting: here are seven inspiring stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from history. Amongst these are Patye-garang, a Darug woman who worked with a British officer of the First Fleet, teaching him words from local Aboriginal languages - together they made the first written record of any Aboriginal languages; Mohara Wacando-Lifu, a woman of Torres Strait Islander, Niue Islander and Papua New Guinea heritage and the first Indigenous woman to receive the Royal Humane Society's Gold Medal for bravery; Yarri and Jacky Jacky, who led the rescue of sixty-nine people during the Gundagai floods of 1852. Each colourful spread in this illustrated book tells a compelling story.

Adrian Plass and Jeff Lucas are renowned for their ability to express the silly side of Christian culture, and to cut through our pretensions and foibles with incisive wit. In this long-awaited sequel to *Seriously Fun-*

ny the pair again join comedic forces to challenge and entertain us with candid, moving, hilarious excerpts from their personal correspondence.

The Shadow Doctor isn't your usual kind of doctor. Sure, you can bring him your problems - but the chances are his solutions will blow your mind. This man can see into your soul, and the cures he prescribes don't come from the pharmacy. If

you have fears you just cannot face, wounds you can't even bear to remember - if you've been abused, ignored, damaged by all life throws at you - the Shadow Doctor is here to help. But the Shadow Doctor has shades of his own, and the work of helping others may be the only thing keeping him afloat. Can he stay ahead of the demons that torment him long enough to

help those who need him?

In these two bestselling classics, popular author Adrian Plass takes us on a rollicking tour of the 'Sacred Diarist's' slightly surreal world. From the pugnacious Andromeda Veal to the loony, loveable Leonard Thynn, the whole gang is here in full glory, bound for misadventure, loads of fun and the occasional insight neatly camouflaged as side-splitting humour.