Scathing Atheist 608:

The “Contractually Obligated” Edition

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Sponsor:

This week’s episode of the Scathing Atheist is brought to you by ... Stamps dot com, Mint Mobile ... And by ... my effort to change the name to “Hurri-Abels” and see if that makes them stop killing motherfuckers.

And now, the Scathing Atheist.

Intro:

It's Thursday!

It’s October 10th,

And its national depression screening day

Yep ya still got it

Damn thanks for checking

I’m Noah Lugeons,

I’m Eli Bosnick,

I'm Heath Enwright, and from Muhammad Ali's New Jersey; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Waycross, Georgia ... this is the Scathing Atheist.

On this week’s episode,

- Jerry Falls Well into our show again
- Harvard scientists give us the REAL story about underground lizard alien angels,
- And CS Lewis explains that he could have sex with a woman any time he wants. And enjoy it.

But first, the Diatribe...

Diatribe

I'm about goddamn tired of hearing what a miracle it all was.

See, as many of you know, my town got walloped pretty hard by Hurricane Helene. Now, on the scale of towns that get hit by Helene, we did alright. But on the scale of storms that have hit Waycross, Georgia, it's the worst thing in living memory. And it may very well be that the worst hit spot in the entire fucking city was my backyard. No fewer than five trees dominoed their way into it and landed in a giant, wooden knot. It's so bad that I honestly can't even tell you how many trees are down back there.

Now, fortunately, Lucinda and I weren't in town when it happened. We were still on vacation when the storm rolled through, so we got to avoid the scary part and just come home to the aftermath. We've got family in town, so they'd already reported back the important stuff; our cats were fine, our yard was bad, but it wasn't catastrophically bad. It could have been. It got really close. In fact, one giant Georgia pine had fallen right between my house and my garage with less than five feet clearance on either side. And so, naturally, when people see that tree — when they see how close it came to smushing my house, and they see that snarl of giant pines Lincoln Logging their way through my backyard — they almost can't help but tell me what a miracle it all is.

And I get the sentiment, and I'm trying to be sympathetic to it. Every single fucking person; every family member, every neighbor, the linemen that got my power back on, the tree removal guys, my weed guy, the mail carrier, the UPS driver, the Uber Eats lady, all of them have taken it upon themselves to attribute my good fortune to divine intervention. "It's a miracle." "It's the hand of God." "It looks like someone was looking out for you." Motherfuckers, that someone just dropped five trees on my shit.

So let's just start with how insensitive it is to tell somebody whose property was just weather fucked how lucky they are. I mean, look, I agree. I'm really lucky nothing completely destroyed my home. But so are all the other people in my neighborhood and most of them don't have five fucking trees in their backyard. In fact, of all the homes in my town that weren't destroyed in the storm, I may very well be the least lucky. If we're gonna invoke divine intervention here, it looks way more like their god was tossing shit at my house and missing than he was holding shit back. Hell, not a goddamn one of the trees back there started out in my yard, so I feel like the better interpretation from a religious standpoint is that God was pushing all the trees toward the atheist's yard so his followers wouldn't have to deal with that shit.

Because, to be clear, there *is* damage. Nothing fell *through* my house, but plenty of shit fell *on* it. One corner of the roof is all smashed in, the beautiful bamboo fence that the previous owner built is wrecked, one of the windows in the garage is broken, the skylight over the kitchen is

cracked, and — as we discovered five days later when we got our first big rain — there's a huge leak in the roof over my bedroom. And yes, when you compare us to the hundreds of people who lost their lives and the thousands of people who lost their family members, we are very fortunate. But when you compare us to pretty much anyone else, we got kinda fucked. And it feels really weird to be repeatedly told just how miraculous the five figures worth of damage to your home is.

But it isn't just frustrating and dismissive. It's also disrespectful as all hell to the people who *didn't* fare as well as we did. So God looked out for my house — my atheist house — but not the Christian firefighter one town over who was killed in the storm while he was on an emergency call? God found time to mostly nudge the trees out of the way of my house, but he didn't divert the waters that wiped out all those towns in North Carolina? He spared my *property* but not the 230 plus human lives the storm took? If he did, then fuck him. And if he didn't (and he didn't) then fuck anyone who would imply otherwise.

Because no, the fact that my fucking house didn't get *more* fucked isn't a miracle. But there *were* miracles. The miracles were the linemen that came from hundreds of miles away and worked eighty hour weeks to get us back to normal. The miracles were the emergency workers who went out in the middle of the storm; the community groups that popped up to distribute clean water the next morning; my wife driving hundreds of miles back and forth to the nearest operating grocery store to buy diapers for people she's never met; the dozens of people who reached out to offer us a place to stay; the hundreds of people who reached out to offer other kinds of help; all the neighbors that pitched in to clear one another's yards and get the roads open. Ours was a town awash in miracles, but they were the kind of miracles you can't see if you're looking up.

Headlines

Joining me for headlines tonight are the Visa and Mastercard to my Amex, Heath Enwright and Eli Bosnick. Fellas, are you ready to charge ahead?

Okay not to no and the bit but I'm very clearly the amex of the podcast. Not everyone can take me and it's my fault.

You strike me as more of a Discover Card.

Meanest thing you've ever said to me.

And while Eli takes a minute to absorb that blow, we'll pause for a word from this week's first sponsor, Stamps dot com.

And now, back to the headlines.

In our lead story tonight, we've been doing this show long enough now that some of our regulars have come and gone. And when they go, that's universally a good thing, because the way they get to be regulars on this show is by being fucking awful. But there's also a part of me that misses them. You spend enough time considering what genital infliction a person's visage most looks like, and you almost feel like you know them. Which is why, as terrible a thing as it is from a moral perspective, I'm actually kind of giddy to report that Jerry Falwell Jr. and Liberty University have settled their lawsuits against one another, kissed, and made up. And now Falwell Jr. is *back* on Liberty U's campus like nothing ever happened. And short of Pat Robertsion rising from the dead to tell us about the secondhand sweater his soul was trapped in for the last 17th months, there's no piece of shit I'd be happier to welcome back to the show.

Imagine getting a lecture about watching a pg-13 movie from a guy who took a header through his front door after watching a guy fuck his wife

Yeah I'm not listening about the movie laws, but I'm definitely asking that guy some questions. He's got some LESSONS about life.

So, quick refresher, Jerry Falwell Jr. came from the penis of a man who speculated on the sexual orientation of Teletubbies and it was all downhill from there. After his influential father's death, he took over the family business in the lying industry. And then he proceeded to do so much ridiculous shit that it felt for a while like he was trying to rob us of the power of exaggeration. This included — but was not limited to — public drunkenness; Tweeting out evidence of said public drunkeness; private drunkenness that became public after he fell down the stairs then locked all the doors so paramedics couldn't get in; and, of course, jerking off to the pool boy fucking his wife. Also some genuinely bad stuff that involves covering up sexual assault and misappropriating university funds, but none of that stuff was cited as the reasons for firing him.

Its fun how the harder he falls in christian eyes the more we like him and vice versa

I guess ONE OF US should change.

Of course, after he was fired, Falwell sued the university for making him look bad by saying all the stuff he did out loud. And then they sued him for making them look bad for just existing in three dimensional space. And the crux of Falwell Jr.'s lawsuit — and a good indication as to why the University was eager to settle this one quick — was the fact that Liberty University overlooks sexual deviants on their staff all the fucking time. And his lawsuit literally gives examples including (quote) "a former president, a former dean, a former provost, and a current executive committee member" (end quote). And so — aided no doubt by that as-yet-unnamed current executive committee member — they found it in themselves to all forgive, forget, and drop their respective lawsuits.

If we make it to discovery everyone is going to jail so why dont we all lower our blackmail sex crime pistols on the count of three

It's like the Spider Man meme, but it's a sex crime onesie.

And I should be clear that Falwell didn't, like, slink back onto campus and make an awkward apology for all the harm he caused to the University's reputation and it's student body. In fact, he didn't even acknowledge that he was away because he'd been banned from campus for sexual impropriety. He's literally pretending he was away because of an illness. He came back during homecoming, got a hero's welcome, and primo reserved seats for the football game. And the same goes for his wife; who, it should be remembered, is *also* credibly accused of sexually predatory behavior *against a Liberty student*.

Yeah I was gonna say imagine if a male teacher had crawled into a students bed on a field trip but liberty probably would have had the same reaction

So yeah, bad for literally everyone except Jerry and Becki Falwell, whoever they're blackmailing, and the people who make fun of Christian hypocrisy for a living. So — with all appropriate sympathies in the world to the rest of y'all — welcome back Jerry.

Liberty University and Jerry Falwell Jr. kiss and make up:
https://religionnews.com/2024/10/04/jerry-falwell-is-back-and-its-bad-for-everyone/

And in "Reversal Reversal Reversal" news ... You know, it's hard to pick a WORST thing that christians do. Sure stuff like the Spanish inquisition and the crusades are the popular picks but here in the US of A in 2024 I think crisis pregnancy centers might just take the cake. These lying christian centers of lying do their best to fool desperate pregnant women into THINKING that they are healthcare facilities and then use a bunch of bullshit pressure tactics to try to prevent women from getting an abortion. And while their right to lie has been thoroughly defended in court they haven't, up to this point, been able to give out MEDICAL misinformation. Well this week a Christian organization of pregnancy centers is looking to change all that, challenging the California attorney general's attempts to apply the state Business Fraud statutes to their' promotion of abortion pill reversal.

I need the judge to make it super clear how stupid this is at every moment. Just like...Welcome to court...just wanna be clear...you're suing because you wanna DO FRAUD?

...yes.

Cool...gonna need you to say that out loud every time you start talking.

Yeah fine.

UP UP UP...

Sorry...sorry...I wanna do fraud...yeah fine.

Great...no doing fraud...gavel.

Yes, Heath, but what if it's *sincerely held* fraud?

So first off a big thanks to the folks over at religion clause for delivering us this story. Religion Clause does a fantastic job of rounding up the religious news around the world over on their blog and you should check em out if the raw sex appeal of folks like us and Hemant Mehta is too distracting.

We've tried dialing back the omnipresent sexual magnetism of our podcasting but as I'm sure you can tell, we just...can't...do it.

Yeah, it turns out you can't turn the volume down when the TV's muted.

Right so if you're not familiar cause your not a liar or a crazy person "abortion pill reversal" is the claim that if you take a bunch of progesterone in between the two doses of medically induced abortion and it is, of course, bullshit. There is NO evidence to back up the claims these clinics make that quote "thousands of lives" have been saved with abortion pill reversal and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, you know, the doctors? They the procedures are "unproven and unethical."

And even if it DID work...you're trying to kill a baby and eat hot chip...so "saving thousands of lives" is fucking up the plan. Stopping chemo might save thousands of perfectly viable cancer cells but that's an argument for OUR SIDE.

Yeah, even if they weren't lying about it working, they'd still be lying about "saving lives."

So yeah while there is *no* challenge to setting up a fucking venus fly trap for pregnant ladies or dressing people up like nurses who aren't nurses you aren't allowed to give out fake medical treatments which to be clear, these clinics do, so the Califonia Attourney general has been enforcing fraud statutes against them because what they're doing is fraud. And like I said at the beginning those pregnancy centers are now SUING the california attorney general to let them keep doing fraud and there is a VERY high likelihood that they'll win. Regular listeners will remember that a federal judge enforced an injunction against New York Attorney General Letitia James back in August for doing the exact same things.

Right. Because the law under this court is down to "can I convincingly pretend to believe this to people who really want to be convinced?"

Fraud...yeah.

So yeah the trick you into having a baby centers are now handing out fake medicine and pretty soon they'll be doing it with legal protection for fake medicine. Nice to know there's still plenty of work cut out for us.

Pregnancy centers sue California AG to stop enforcement of business fraud statutes against them: https://religionclause.blogspot.com/2024/10/pregnancy-centers-sue-california-ag-to.html

Next up in headlines, we have a story about a very important new book that just came out. And Eli, I think we're gonna need your help getting some of the language just right.

Okay, no problem...[clears throat]... In "I maich a memwarj" news ...

And I'll translate as best I can. That was...in "I made a memoir" news ... Melania Trump released her new book last week, because she has about a month left on her shred of relevance in the world. The book is called...Eli?...

Muhlonjgeeluh.

Melania. And it tells the story of being someone who chose to marry Donald Trump and breed with him. And just like with other memoirs written by former first ladies — like *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt*...or *Becoming* by Michelle Obama — we get a nuanced explanation of American politics through the lens of someone with a unique perspective. For example, you might be wondering why Melania Trump never denounced the violent J6 coup attempt. And that's for 2 reasons. First, it's because counting in confusing. Here's the quote from the book...Eli?...

"You can't continue to count votes for days, which is what they did. It was a mess."

That was: "You can't continue to count votes for days, which is what they did. It was a mess."

I'm just impressed there was a part she didn't crib from Michelle's book.

And the second reason is that Melania and her team were busy with something super important on J6. Remember all the amazing renovations she did in the White House? That's what they were working on that day. And she never denounced the violent mob because her press secretary never told her what was happening. According to Melania: (quote)...

"My team was already behind schedule and focused on the task."

"My team was already behind schedule and focused on the task."

So I can only assume that she goes on to then condemn it? Now that she knows about it and isn't too busy with bushes or whatever?

We also learned about the REAL story of Melania's jacket that she was wearing during a trip to the border with Mexico in 2018. The jacket said "I REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?", and it seemed like a super shitty thing to wear at that moment, which led to lots of criticism in the media. Well...turns out the jacket was actually the media's fault...because they were being mean to her already. In fairness, some of the media coverage about Melania WAS terrible, including shitty people who wrote about her work as a nude model as if that's a bad thing. But there was plenty of legitimate criticism too...for example, agreeing with anything the Republican Party was doing. Regardless, according to Melania, she was getting back at the media by wearing the jacket, adding (quote)...

"We are living in a dangerous time when it comes to journalism."

"We are living in a dangerous time when it comes to journalism."

Yeah, that's just what Vladimir Putin says… while locking eyes with journalists. Well done.

And that brings us to biggest revelation in the book. Melania came out as firmly pro-choice. It's hard to enjoy a moment of enlightenment when other parts of the book included her condemnation of the "inflammatory rhetoric of the Black Lives Matter movement", but here we are. And if you're wondering if Melania posted a video last week further explaining her stance from the book...yes she did. And if you're wondering if people are describing it as a perfume ad for *Abortion by Chanel*...yes they are.
https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1904000473408671
Here's what she had to say...starting with dramatic violin music...(quote)...

extra crazy and hard to understand
"Individual freedom is a fundamental principle that I safeguard. Without a doubt, there is no room for compromise about this essential right that all women possess from birth: INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. What does "my body, my choice" really mean?"

That was...no idea.

It was the sound of Tall Tyler ripping out his bowels through his nostrils.

And one other detail on the story: Melania did an interview to plug her book last week with Sean Hannity on Fox News. And somehow, Melania being pro-choice never came up. Maybe it's just an old issue that's not really relevant anymore. Fox News has its finger on the pulse of American culture more than I do. We'll see if the topic pops up if any big political things happen in the next month or so.

Okay but audible if you liked what you just heard and you want me to do the whole thing…give me a ring guys. Got the mic already and everything

Melania Trump announces pro-choice stance in her new book:
https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/04/us/politics/melania-trump-book-abortion-2020-election.html

And while we wait, we'll take a quick break for a word from our other sponsor this week, Mint Mobile.

HEADLINES B:

And in "The Devil's Advocate" news ... Every couple of years a kid gets really sick and dies. <great comedy set up> I mean a kid gets sick and dies all the time but every couple of years they die and come back…by which I mean they dont die… <jokes are really writing themselves.> AND..AAAAAND when that happens christians lose their mind, heavily suggest to that kid that they saw heaven while they were out, and then write a book and a movie with greg kinnear about it. And we dont usually talk about those stories for a couple reasons. One. It tends to happen to kids who are sick a lot and a lot of times those kids die pretty soon after their done being used as a prop by Oprah and TWO my 4 year old told me I had a dinosaur on my head during bedtime last week its not the kind of lie that deserves our usual ire. BUT this week…we have a counter…a voice for reason if you will. For none other than albert pacino <Alfredo> maybe you've heard of him <Well, they've heard of *Alfredo*> revealed to the new york times that he had a near death exprience back in 2020 this week…and he didn't see fucking SHIT.

Either that, or he got to heaven and everyone was like "HOO-AHHH...remember...Scent of a Woman?..." And he immediately came back to Earth and now he's an atheist.

And he didn't see shit because God was making him blind for the sake of the bit.

Exactly. So the movie buffs in our audience will know Pacino from films like Jack and Jill, Gigli, and 88 Minutes…as well as some other stuff I don't know. Well as I said, back in 2020 according to him he had a near death experience. According to the actor: (quote) "I was sitting there in my house, and I was gone. Like that. I didn't have a pulse. I had about six paramedics in that living room, and there were two doctors, and they had these outfits on that looked like they were from outer space or something. It was kind of shocking to open your eyes and see that. Everybody was around me, and they said: 'He's back. He's here.'"

Thank god you're back...so...you gonna do a big yelly speech?...get the fuck out?...got it.

I'm hung up on why he thought the paramedics were from outer space.

So what messages and deeper truths did pacino bring back form the other side well continuing the quote "I didn't see the white light or anything. There's nothing there. As Hamlet says, 'To be or not to be'; <I don't think that's what Hamlet meant.> 'The undiscovered country from whose bourn, no traveler returns.' And he says two words: 'no more.' It was no more. You're gone. I'd never thought about it in my life. But you know actors: It sounds good to say I died once. What is it when there's no more?"

I loved how honest it was. I listened to the interview, and the *New York Times* guy David Marchese was clearly hoping for a big mystical revelation. He says to Pacino: "I bet you experienced some crazy metaphysical ripples?...HUH?" And Pacino says: "No." And then Pacino clearly felt bad for the guy, so he gave the quote from Hamlet to help out.

Yeah so that's one BIG check in the atheist column for near death experiences. Also I'd argue our full grown man of the world understands a lot more about the world than some kid with cancer OR…god, like all of us, just got way to nervous to introduce himself to mr. pacino.

I wonder if Greg Kinnear will play Al Pacino in the movie.

Al Pacino confirms "there's nothing there" after we die— "You're gone":
https://www.avclub.com/al-pacino-near-death-experience

And finally tonight, in "SETI or Not, Here They Come" news ... Harvard says we have underground alien dinosaur angels that fly UFOs. That's what they've been working on lately over at Harvard. And this is BIG if true. According to a new paper entitled "The Cryptoterrestrial Hypothesis: A Case for Scientific Openness to a Concealed Earthly Explanation for Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena", there might be underground alien dinosaur angels, and that would explain all the UFOs...or UAPs more accurately.

I love it when the paper's hypothesis is so insane they can't even hide it with a verbose title.

WHOMST saw bigfoot…thank you very much

And a big thanks to Owen for sending the link to ScathingNews@gmail.com. Owen gets a place in the bunker for the impending war against the alien dinosaur angels. And he can have some of Eli's freeze dried soy protein. <STOP GIVING AWAY MY FOOD> So I learned about the new study from earlier this year thanks to Owen and a recent article in the prominent science publication called *Popular Mechanics*. According to science journalist John Scott Lewinski: "Alien cryptoterrestrials could be secretly hiding deep underground, Harvard scientists claim. Such ancient or non-human beings could reside somewhere inside the Earth or under the oceans, they say."

Yeah, man, they could be up your butt in a hazelnut too. That doesn't make it newsworthy.

Popular mechanics and the learning channel took turns that are really depressingly reflective of society and I wish they hadn't

So the paper isn't JUST from Harvard. That would NOT be credible. It was written by a research team from Harvard AND the Montana Technological University. And they argue that UAP sightings (quote) "may reflect activities of intelligent beings concealed in stealth here on

Earth (e.g., underground), and/or its near environs (e.g., the Moon), and/or even 'walking among us' (e.g., passing as humans)."

They left out “selectively invisible like Predator,” which is just sloppy science if you ask me.

My hypothesis is that they shrunk us down a few years ago and now they walk around on earth all regular sized where we can’t see them. Wheres MY paper

In fairness to the research team, the study admits up front that their claim, and their title, and everything they say is (quote) "likely to be regarded skeptically by most scientist." That was the epistemological highlight of the paper. And then they added: "NONETHELESS...our theory deserves genuine consideration in a spirit of epistemic humility and openness." <That’s not how ‘deserves’ works.> <or humility> And it appears they were further inspired in their epistemic humility soon after publication, when Air Force intelligence officer (and blower of the alien whistle) David Grusch testified for Congress over the summer that he had classified Pentagon documents that prove a decades-long cover-up about the US military having recovered alien spacecraft. And that tracks with official comments from Barack Obama...on the *Late Late Show*...when he said: (quote) "When it comes to aliens, there are things I just can't tell you on air."

I feel like harvard would wanna protect its imprint from “complete fucking idiots” a little more

So you're probably thinking: "Hey Heath...you said *alien dinosaur angels* multiple times now...WHAT?" Great question. Here's the evidence from the paper. Well...it's actually just one thing...here's the evident: Lots of UAP sightings involve a mysterious saucer-like aircraft entering or exiting a secret underground access point like a volcano.

Volcanoes aren’t *secret* underground access points, though. They very famously are enormous and occasionally spit fire rocks to let people know where they are.

So based on that evident, we got four hypotheses...some of which could be combined...
(1): There's a "remnant form" of an ancient, highly advanced human civilization that's been hiding underground and watching us. And they have sweet flying saucers.

And occasionally they throw some magma

Listeners, let me assure you that this one is the least stupid. We’re going down from here.

(2): There's a highly advanced NON-human species that evolved long before us — possibly from "intelligent dinosaurs"...which also secretly evolved at some point — and they don't wanna get discovered. But they flubbed a few covert recon flights.

Why dinosaurs? Apparently to spruce up Heath’s intro paragraph.

(3): Aliens with intergalactic space travel and/or time travel are involved.

They had to add time travel to sound crazy enough to match the theme of the paper.

(4): The secret underground population is (quote) "less technological than MAGICAL." The paper calls them: (quote) "earthbound angels."

I feel like that one was added by a frustrated undergrad who realized they couldn't call anything unreasonable after the dinosaur bit.

So yeah...that was NOT what I expected from Harvard. But silver lining...I'm glad they're spending their time on things more useful than educating Ted Cruz. Who seems a LOT like an underground dinosaur alien skin walker. Maybe some good cross-pollination between departments in the hallways.

Alien 'Cryptoterrestrials' Could Be Secretly Hiding Deep Underground, Harvard Scientists Claim:
https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a62353038/are-aliens-hiding-underground/
https://futurism.com/harvard-scientists-unknown-civilization-cryptoterrestrials

And with the realization that finding out Ted Cruz was a time traveling dinosaur alien would actually be less shocking than finding out he's genuinely a human being, we'll wrap the headlines for the night. Heath, Eli; thanks as always.

And when we come back, we'll stop putting off that damn CS Lewis book.

God Awful Books - Book 3, chapters 6 through

Despite Eli's on-mic persona and Heath's having made hating great literature his thing over on Citation Needed, I think it's safe to say that all three of us love to read. But we've been trying to cure ourselves of that trait for years on a segment we call *God Awful Books*.

So this week, we cracked open CS Lewis's *Mere Christianity* once again. We're still on Book Three, "Christian Behavior." And unfortunately we did most of the fuck stuff already, so now it's time to move on to the most sexless thing of all, **Chapter Six: Christian Marriage**

- And yet again he comes out with a sort of "mea culpa" for the last chapter. The opening line of this one is "The last chapter was mainly negative."
- Cmon CS...get it together...you can do this!
- We just all agree lawmowers are really sexy and wives dont GET that

- There are two reasons he doesn't wanna discuss marriage; and neither of them is that he fantasized about Errol Flynn wearing nothing but ground chuck. (This is what I assume one fantasized about in the 1940s.)
- I'd say it's timeless.
- Yeah he does this big fancy "it is below a man who speak to the humble farmer to speak of marriage" but dude…its your book…just dont write the chapter your writing
- He doesn't think Christ was being metaphorical when he said a husband and wife were "of one flesh."
    - Heath gets it?
    - Explains why he didn't get married, I guess. He also tries to prove he knows about sex again...and it goes badly. He says: "We all know that it's like a key in a lock coming together as one...or a violin and a bow." That's an improvement since he tried "it's like fixing a lawmower", but still not great.
- Premarital sex is the bulimia of fucking.
- Yeah he was saying that sex without marriage is like tasting food without digesting it. So...having sex only inside a marriage is all about shitting. It was a confusing little section.
- Well shitting is like the KIDS that come from marriage and abortion is when you kinda gotta go but you decide to squeeze for a little and then you dont have to anymore…metaphores are hard
- Speaking of which, getting divorced is like having both your legs cut off.
- Tom from cog dis can confirm its way more expensive that that.
- He's super clear that — regardless of your Christian denomination — you shouldn't get divorced just because you hate each other.
- And he stumps himself in his own book by admitting that denominations are different and then saying they're all in agreement. He says: "Every denomination agrees that divorce is like surgically separating conjoined twins and losing legs...[very next sentence]...But some denominations are cool with that...fuck...where was I going with this?...WE ALL AGREE THAT divorce is bad unless you chop legs off?"
- "Marriage is about keeping your promises, dammit." ← What are you, 11?
- Yeah I know it seems like noah is exaggerating but his argument against divorce is pretty much "does a pinky swear mean nothing to you?"
- He calls the modern sexual impulse "morbidly inflamed."
- Maybe if you didn't write whole chapters of your book on morality about not jerking off that wouldn't be a problem
- The lawnmower blades and the raw ground beef on the Errol Flynn fuck doll aren't helping either.
- There's a full "but what if I crossed my fingers when I said 'I do'?" paragraph.
- An important factor when pinky promises mean as much as they do to CS
- Listen to this romantic motherfucker (quote) "The idea that 'being in love' is the only reason for remaining married really leaves no room for marriage as a contract or promise at all" (end quote).
- Then he says: "People with love in their life know about this better than people who just *talk* about it...like in a book. So I'm gonna quote GK Chesterton."

- 
- And then we get the argument from love songs. He says that divorce is clearly wrong because love songs don't have caveats for eventual divorce in the lyrics.
- Why should married couples no longer in love remain together? Well, kids. Also, making sure nobody else gets to fuck her.
- Pinky swears and now dibs. If were not careful he's gonna recommend cootie shots for your wedding night
- Almost his entire chapter on Christian Marriage is about how love is overrated.
- Yeah he tries to explain that love is GOOD, but obeying God is GREAT. And that's dumb, but it's relatively easy to understand. But he can't just write a sentence. He has to fuck it up with a CRAZY analogy. This time, he explains that love is to God...as having a duel is to having a long feud. Because...a gunfight is better than a feud...just like obeying God is better than loving a person. He got the direction of stuff backwards AND he got it wrong within the wrong.
- "Plus, eternal love sounds *exhausting*, amirite?"
- He accidentally runs into hitchens' all heaven's become hell eventually argument like he hit it with his car
- "Sure, living in empty-hearted contempt forever sucks, but there's still gardening."
- CS...you get divorced and you can still garden. And also do whatever you want in the shed with the mower.
- Actual line (quote) "It is simply no good trying to keep any thrill: that is the very worst thing you can do. Let the thrill go — let it die away — go on through that period of death into the quieter interest and happiness that follow" (end quote)
- Hey CS did this chapter start out as a kind of NOTE perchance?
- The truest form of love is actually called TOLERATION. Sex is great, but you ever just watch each other shit...for decades?
- Fuck, even CS Lewis takes the time to say "But we shouldn't legislate our ideas about marriage. Because that would make us assholes."
- No laws...let's not be gauche...just cultural shame forever...especially for women.
- So, having dealt with love and not being in love, he turns to the other major topic in the subject of marriage, the subjugation of women.
- And spoiler alert podcast listener he's for it.
- There has to be a "head" of the marriage, otherwise the first time you disagreed on where to go for dinner, you'd starve to death.
- CS lewis is not the first man in history to be thrown into a homicidal rage by "I dont know. What do you want" but he's probably the first to write a chapter of a book in praise of it

- He says that you need a marriage boss because there's only 2 people, so you can't settle a disagreement by voting. So it's all about odd number polycules.
- Plus, women don't even wanna be in charge. Trust the closeted gay man who's proud of how little sex he's had.
- Also, men are more objective.
- And we will punch a hole in a wall if you say were not
- It's funny how easy it is for him to mistake the imposed social order for the natural order.
- He literally ends the chapter by saying that men are more diplomatic with the world outside the family...you know, "an appeaser." He was writing this in 1944.

And that's literally all he felt like he had to say on the subject of marriage. So now it's time to move on to **Chapter Seven: Forgiveness**.

- And again, he starts with an apology. He says "I said earlier that chastity was the most unpopular of Christian virtues… but I've changed my mind and I wanna say something else is the most unpopular now."
    - All of this shit feels like a vestige of back when it was WAY HARDER to edit what you'd already typed.
    - The delete key is just typing an X over the letters I already wrote. YOU DONT KNOW
- But the new least popular virtue is forgiving your enemies.
- Not doing that.
- He jumps to "forgiving the Nazis" *way* too quick.
- Yeah this feels less "forgive your enemies" and more "hedgin g his bets in case the war doesn't go well"
- His opening defense is "look, I didn't invent the fucking religion, okay?"
- Yeah he mentions forgiving the nazis, and then he explains how the bible is very clear that you don't get forgiven unless you forgive. So the move is...don't be shitty...and also destroy your enemies. Invite some nazis to come do a forgiveness party...and then destroy them. My religion is better just from this alone.
- He suggests we start small; build up to forgiving the gestapo by first forgiving our shitty spouse that we hate from the last chapter.
- Even if she doesn't knwo what she wants for dinner
- Look...CS...I get it...you're listing your enemies according to destruction priority...I couldn't sympathize more...but the bottom of your list is crazy.
- He points out that "love your neighbor as you love yourself" is way easier if you're self-loathing.
- SOLID POINT. Looking at my enemy in the mirror with disgust is gonna be weird, but I'll figure it out.
- Hate the sin, not the sinner.
- Not to get too meta but in reading this book I'm amazed at how much basic bitch completely idiotic christian bullshit is in this supposed peak of christian apologetics. Were gonna get a live laugh love chapter any day now

- “Suppose you read about atrocities in the paper that turned out to be less bad than first reported” ← I really don’t like where we’re going in this chapter that opened on Jews forgiving Nazis.
- This whole “we’ll start seeing black as blacker” thing — when you get past the racist sounding phrasing — is a very clear warning about turning into Trumpers.
- If I read a new article, and it turns out Republicans on January 6th were just a weather balloon...I'll be a Christian.
- He’s fine with pacifism, what he doesn’t like is killing people in war and then being a fucking bummer about it.
- To be clear “being a nazi” forgiveable “not fighting in the war I’m a fan of” double terrible in TWO chapters now
- And who is that for? Was there a big problem with atheist Allied soldiers killing nazis, but in a snit the whole time?
- Killing in war ought to be accompanied by (quote) “a kind of gaiety and wholeheartedness.” (end quote)
    - Y’all, I looked up ‘gaiety’ thinking maybe it meant something other than what I thought it meant.
    - Okay, both options are insane. But I'll agree on liking the 2nd one a little better. One guy is killing nazis and being all mopey like he's mad about cleaning his room, and the other one is like "hahahahaha...what a jaunty afternoon of gaiety and killing!"
- Also, it’s weird that his chapter on forgiveness is mostly about when it’s okay to kill someone.
- Yeah if anything this chapter is much more about how god will forgive you for killing germans in his glorious war…and if we lose the germans should forgive me for writing that last part

And now that we know when to kill people, we can move on to the most promising chapter title in the book, **Chapter Eight: The Great Sin**

- He builds up this huge “greatest sin” thing, but he’s talking about pride.
    - Like, I can see how pride is damaging in some instances but not others. But according to CS, it’s worse than murder.
    - Right and spoiler alert it turns out that pride is gonna be the sin that makes you NOT listen to CS lewis
    - So far it's wrath and lust that are making me not listen, but we'll see how it goes.
- “Two of a trade never agree” ← What? That’s a terrible saying.
- Maybe he only meet podcasters
- “Pride is competitive.” ← Is it, though? I’m proud we raised over $80,000 for the Harris campaign. Who am I competing with?
- One million mom’s noah pay attention
    - But also, so fucking what?
    - If each of the One Million Moms donates a dollar to Donald Trump, we're still winning by about 76 grand.

- He seems to be mistaking pride for greed, but only selectively.
- Keep in mind that he hasn't gotten around to RAPE on his list of sins yet but yeah lets really get in there on "wanting things too much"
- "Sure, a lot of people will say that greed and selfishness cause greed and selfishness, but no. It's pride."
    - This is him realizing halfway through the chapter that he's been describing greed and selfishness and being like "well I'm not retyping all that shit, I'll tell you that much."
    - It's like watching the bad guy from *Seven* realize he made the wrong theme for his next thing...and now he's angrily disassembling a murder device...the book.
- The part where he talks about how nobody needs more than £10,000 a year was fun.
- Which is why he donated everything about 10K pounds a year to charity right?
- He rails against the pride of women who make him fall in love with them and then don't fuck him.
- And dont know where they want to go to dinner
- He begrudgingly admits that acknowledging the superiority of an imaginary super-being doesn't count against pridefulness.
- Quick question...would it count as prideful to be so jazzed up about your one specific god that you wrote an entire long-winded book telling everyone it's the truth of the universe?
- He points out how pride can actually help you overcome *actual* vices, but he still scoffs at it.
- Taking pride in being good...that's how they getcha. That's his actual argument. Satan sees people being good...and that's how he's gonna make you evil.
- But — perhaps because he's been wildly unclear as to what he thinks pride means — he has to clear up a few possible misconceptions before he goes.
- On secod thought…that was nothing…do over
- The first is that it's still okay to like it when people tell you you're awesome and they love your books. That doesn't count as pride.
- There it is. That's my fault...he called pride base during his pride book...earlier objection withdrawn.
- It's even okay to need to be complimented constantly.
- Thats for the support CS. I KNEW my therapist was wrong
- You shouldn't care what people think of you — as long as you don't care because God. Otherwise it's sinful.
- I DO care what people think of me...because of God. Am I on base too?
- The second possible misconception is that he's saying you can't be proud of your kid or your alma mater or whatever. That's okay, too. You just can't be proud of yourself, I guess.
- He's like the OPPOSITE of cognitive behavioral therapy. The next chapter is gonna be on distorting your thoughts for fun and profit
- The third misconception is that Yahweh hates pride because he's offended by it. <God sounds a little prideful.> But it actually hurts him more than you when he burns you in hell for it.

- God isn't worried about the size of his dick *at all*. Some deities say it's *too* big, actually.
- Yeah again I know it seems like noah might be exaggerating but he spents 5 sentences on how god doesn't care if your prideful he just hates seeing you be such a stupid head about it.
- The fourth (and final) misconception is that people who are humble aren't annoying as fuck. They are. And he hates them.
- All of a sudden, it's a business manipulation book. We learn that real humility is mostly mirroring and eye contact.
- The first step in overcoming pride is admitting you have a problem.
- Said the man writing a book on the objective truth about christianity

And as much as I'd love to tell you that he heard it and the book ends there, he hasn't and it doesn't. So there'll be plenty more to come on the next installment of *God Awful Books*…