

I know this book really exploded at least a year ago, so I'm a little late to the game. There are so

Under the Covers

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many books on my "to-read" list, though, that I often tend to read the books "everyone is reading" a little later than the rest of the population. Anyway, I just read Heaven is for Real, the story of a young boy who "left his body" during a surgery when he was not yet four years old. I really wanted to like this book. I didn't. For a few reasons.

One thing that made me skeptical is the fact that Colton Burpo never actually died during his emergency appendectomy. I thought I was reading a book about a boy who died and went to Heaven...how did he go to Heaven if he never died? Right there it was hard for me not to dismiss everything else following in the book.

Another tidbit that made me question the authenticity of the book is that Colton Burpo's father is a pastor. Hmmm. How convenient. To me it just seemed that this book was written to push the dad's religious agenda...oh, and make a bunch of money. Now keep in mind that I'm a pretty cynical person, and I'm only one person. I've heard lots of people rave about this book. My mind tends to question everything, and I definitely question the motive behind this book.

Colton did describe what Heaven is like, what Jesus looks like, etc. For all I know, little Colton Burpo really did visit Heaven. I will never know for sure. I do know what it's like to have a 3-year-old, however, and I know how imaginative they are and how easily it would probably be to put ideas into Colton's head. Like...couldn't these descriptions he used for Heaven be from something he gleaned from Sunday school lessons or bedtime Bible stories? I don't know for certain that this is the case with this book, but this is where my mind went.

Another book I enjoyed a little bit more is 90 Minutes in Heaven, although that was also written by a pastor. I just find it interesting that these books were written by pastors (or relayed by a pastor's child). Again, perhaps it's the cynic in me, but I feel that each book could easily be a way for the writers to push their beliefs by way of convincing others that Heaven is, indeed, for real.

Maybe I'd feel differently if I read a book of this nature that was written by someone not affiliated with a church. All in all, upon reading Heaven is for Real, I felt underwhelmed. Maybe you'll feel differently.