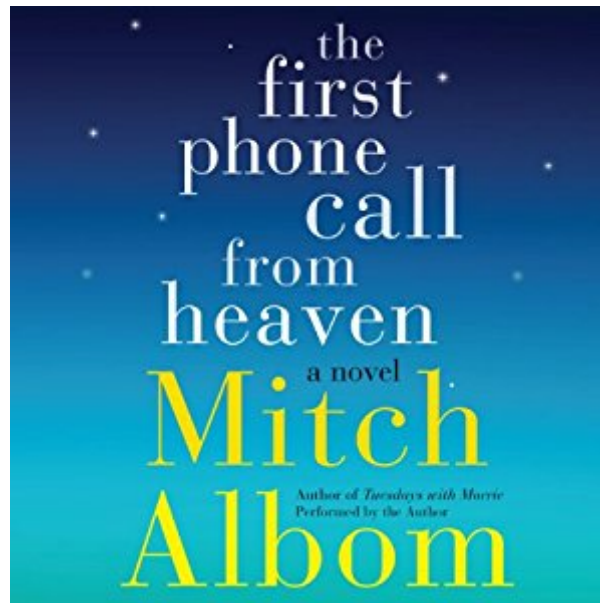




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The First Phone Call From Heaven: A Novel



Synopsis

The First Phone Call from Heaven tells the story of a small town on Lake Michigan that gets worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. Is it the greatest miracle ever or a massive hoax? Sully Harding, a grief-stricken single father, is determined to find out. An allegory about the power of belief - and a page-turner that will touch your soul - Albom's masterful storytelling has never been so moving and unexpected. Readers of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* will recognize the warmth and emotion so redolent of Albom's writing, and those who haven't yet enjoyed the power of his storytelling will thrill at the discovery of one of the best-loved writers of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“On the day the world received its first phone call from heaven, Tess Rafferty was unwrapping a box of tea bags. We live in the day and age of smartphones. Ever wondered HOW smart are they? Smart enough to put through a call from Heaven? Picture this. You are going about your daily chores, and your phone rings. You answer. On the other end, is the voice of your deceased loved one. No, it's not an imitation by someone, and no you are not dreaming this up. It IS really their voice and they ARE really having a conversation with you. How do you respond to this? That is the premise of this book. It follows the lives of the “chosen ones” in Coldwater, Michigan whose lives are forever altered when they receive phone calls from their loved ones—their DEAD loved

ones! Sparking extreme media interest, while drawing frenzied supporters and angry protesters in equal parts, these phone calls become the world's biggest spectacle! Read the full review @ <http://shanayatales.com/the-first-phone-call-from-heaven-by-mitch-albom-book-review/>

This book was so different from any inspirational book I've ever read that it just blew me away. It reads like non-fiction, until you get into the story and there is more than one story being told. The main character is Sullivan "Sully" Harding, a grief stricken former military pilot, who lost his wife and his career at the same time. He has returned home to care for his son Jules, and has to take a job with whoever will hire him. Then there are Tess Rafferty, Jack Sellers, Katherine Yellen and several others who have all received phone calls from loved ones who have passed on. How? Why these people? Who would even try to do this? Sully is determined to find out, his son wants to talk to his mother and if its true Sully knows that his wife would have called Jules. Lives will change, some people will believe, others will not but the town of Coldwater, Michigan will never be the same. This book really makes you think - what if it really happened. We are all aware of what happens in this country when a "miracle" happens or even a major disaster. People have to see for themselves, become involved, live the experience. How much more would that happen if we were being contacted by loved ones from heaven? Just imagine the furor, what it would be like in such a small town. Well, you don't have to think, you can read about it, even live it. This story becomes real and takes on a life of its own. Everyone learns something and you will too.

From his Tuesdays with Morrie to this latest novel, Mitch Albom has proven himself to be an excellent storyteller. I was keen to take a look when I saw this new title. At the same time, I also wondered if he had written one novel too many about communicating with the afterlife. In this latest novel, he employs a familiar pattern that he has used in quite a few of his novels before. He tells the stories of a number of persons, mostly unrelated, while developing in parallel. The different stories would converge at some point, of course. In the meantime, he is so good at creating suspense that the reader is kept on the edge of his seat. Once you pick up his book, you want to read through it from cover to cover. On top of that, the characters he creates and the story that he tells reflect a deep understanding of human nature. One cannot help but empathise with his characters. Yes, this is another novel about communicating with the afterlife. That thought somewhat turned me off at first. Should someone with Albom's creative writing talent not at least try telling a story about something else? That said, I must say that there are enough twists and turns in the story to keep one captivated. In short, this is an engrossing novel that I would recommend. I hope that he would

try writing on a different subject in future, though.

The First Phone Call from Heaven takes place in the fictional town of Coldwater, Michigan. Out of nowhere, some of the residents receive phone calls from people they had lost. At first, they are in disbelief. As far as they know, no one has received a phone call from heaven before. The author delves into the lives of each of the recipients and their relationships with their deceased loved ones. There is one person in the town, Sully Harding, who believes it is all a hoax. He too has lost someone special, but he refuses to believe in an afterlife. He starts to investigate the strange phone calls and hopes to uncover that they are no miracles but deception. There are a few twists and turns and the truth is finally revealed in the end. I loved how the author interwove the story with some history of Alexander Graham Bell and the invention of the telephone. In the beginning, I was skeptical of where the phone calls were originating, but as I read on, I hoped that they were real. The calls somehow gave the recipients hope. Each person handled the phone calls differently, just as people handle death differently. In the end, this book leaves the reader thinking about what they believe comes after death.

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