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Secondhand Souls: A Novel



Synopsis

In San Francisco, the souls of the dead are mysteriously disappearingâ ”and you know that canâ™t be goodâ ”in New York Times bestselling author Christopher Mooreâ™s delightfully funny sequel to *A Dirty Job*. Something really strange is happening in the City by the Bay. People are dying, but their souls are not being collected. Someoneâ ”or somethingâ ”is stealing them and no one knows where they are going, or why, but it has something to do with that big orange bridge. Death Merchant Charlie Asher is just as flummoxed as everyone else. Heâ™s trapped in the body of a fourteen-inch-tall âœmeat puppetâ • waiting for his Buddhist nun girlfriend, Audrey, to find him a suitable new body to play host. To get to the bottom of this abomination, a motley crew of heroes will band together: the seven-foot-tall death merchant Minty Fresh; retired policeman turned bookseller Alphonse Rivera; the Emperor of San Francisco and his dogs, Bummer and Lazarus; and Lily, the former Goth girl. Now if only they can get little Sophie to stop babbling about the coming battle for the very soul of humankind . . .

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Moore and the Grim Reaper gang are back. A lot of things have changed since the battle with *The Morrigan*. Beta male Charlie Asherâ™s soul is stuck in one of his Buddhist girlfriendsâœmeat puppetsâ •, his daughter Sophie aka Death who is now being raised by his sister and her foul mouthed wife has seemingly lost all her powers and Inspector Rivera has taken a break from duty, any everything else for that matter, to get used to his role as the cities newest death merchant. Minty Fresh, while dealing with a broken heart as a result from dating sarcastic

goth Lily seems to be the only one not letting personal issues get in the way of duty and that's a big problem. Souls are not being collected and the forces of darkness are once again making their move on the streets of San Francisco. Breaking the rules in the Big Book of Death once again, the gang band together to set things right. I loved *A Dirty Job* and was excited to see a sequel to a book I thought would remain a stand alone. As usual Christopher Moore's writing is filled with heart and laughter but I was left somewhat disappointed. I was so happy to find what had become of the gang and spend time with those characters again but it felt kinda lazy to have the baddies the same as the first novel. I think it would have been much more interesting to have read of them battling a whole different kind of evil. I strongly suggest that anyone who hasn't read *A Dirty Job* do so before reading this one. Half the fun comes from knowing the history of these characters and seeing where they've ended up, not to mention the fact that almost every aspect ties into things we've learned about in the first. 3.5/5* Thank you William Morrow and Edelweiss for this review copy*

We're back in the world of the beloved characters from *A Dirty Job*! I think this book works as a stand-alone but I think it's much more enjoyable if you have read *A Dirty Job*. In fact, I suggest a re-read of *A Dirty Job*. Trouble is once again afoot in San Francisco, and who better to save the city than a beta male and his 7-year old daughter, a ghost (or two), a snarky young adult, a 70-s wearing, mo-fo saying, large, bald black man named Minty, a Buddhist Nun, a cop-gone-bookseller, and the Emperor of San Francisco and his "men"? And just what are the squirrel people up to? This book seemed more focused on the supernatural to me, where as *ADJ* was more poignant in its treatment of Death. It was fun, and there were many laugh out loud moments. Sophie was an absolute crack up - I just wish there had been more of her -- but I got the strong sense we'll see more of Sophie in a future book. This story doesn't seem quite over yet. Fast-paced and entertaining! Another winner from Moore

As much as I have liked Moore's last couple of books, they felt like he was a little out of his element. I also don't like the Pocket character too much. So I am glad that Moore came back to his spooky version of the Bay, which seems like his home in this line of books and the *You Suck* part. It is his home, so I guess that makes sense. The book is well done for a sequel. I read the original when it was fresh out, and I haven't gone back, so there were some blank spots in my memory about who was what, and in the early part that is brought back in a re-exposition that filled in those blank spots. So that was really nice. The action rises and builds, and if there is one real

criticism of the book is that it resolves a little too quickly, and the end comes too soon. I'm not sure if it is the end of the book, or a set-up for something new. I guess we'll have to see.

I absolutely loved *A Dirty Job*, but after reading the sequel and thinking back, I realize that what I loved were the characters and their interactions. The overall story of that book, mirrored here is, big bad rises and is (spoilers) conveniently dispatched far too quickly near the end. That plot is kind-of pointless and unnecessary; it serves only as a framework in which we can view these characters. Its a novel, so it needs some over-arching story. I almost wish that Moore just wrote about his characters, mini-adventures, interaction - with no real grand story that brings them all together. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed this book and seeing everyone again, but the few parts that pulled me out of this world and seemed like they just didn't fit, was the big-bad and the related plot - it seemed tacked on. Moore wrote the continuing story of our favorite characters and was like... hmm, I need some reason that they're all together. My point - read it and enjoy it, but ignore the pointless plot.

If '*A Dirty Job*' wasn't funny enough for you, this will set you straight. No spoilers here, but you'll be pleased to learn of the return of most characters from a dirty job. The '*Minty One*' is featured prominently. His dramatic narrative arc takes off like an ICBM, but is somehow, also, predictably cool. The fates are not done with San Francisco's leading beta male soul collector, cum meaty & toothy stuffed toy of great endowment. Charlie Asher is back, and his saga continues. Don't read this book if you haven't read '*A Dirty Job*'. You won't get everything out of it that you deserve to get out of it. Read '*A Dirty Job*' - just do it. You won't be sorry. You will then be able to participate in the very satisfactory end of the story that is '*Secondhand Souls*'.

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