



## Speaking with the Angel

*From Riverhead Trade*

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**Speaking with the Angel** From Riverhead Trade

**Nick Hornby...Giles Smith...Helen Fielding...Roddy Doyle...Irvine Welsh...Zadie Smith...Dave Eggers...Robert Harris...Melissa Bank...Patrick Marber...Colin Firth...John O'Farrell**

Compiled by bestselling author Nick Hornby and featuring brand new stories from the hottest writers on both sides of the Atlantic, **Speaking with the Angel** is a fresh and funny collection that is sure to be the literary anthology of the year.

Here is a book that was inspired by a very special boy and a very special school. Some money from each copy of **Speaking with the Angel** sold will benefit autism education charities around the world, including The Treehouse School in London, where Nick's son Danny is a student, and the New York Child Learning Institute here in the States. This project is truly a labor of love for Hornby and the other writers involved, many of whom are Nick's friends.

These original first-person narratives come from the most exciting voices in fiction. Melissa Bank gives readers a glimpse into the mind of a modern New Yorker whose still-new relationship is a constant source of surprise in "The Wonder Spot." In Zadie Smith's "I'm the Only One," a young man recalls his strained relationship with his diva-esque sister. Dave Egger's "After I Was Thrown in the River and Before I Drowned," is told from the viewpoint of an unfortunate pit bull. Helen Fielding offers up a new twist on I've fallen and I can't get up in "Luckybitch." And in Nick Hornby's "NippleJesus," a bruiser finds out that guarding modern art is far more hazardous than controlling the velvet ropes at a nightclub. **Speaking with the Angel** also includes stories from Roddy Doyle, Irvine Welsh, Colin Firth, John O'Farrell, Robert Harris, Patrick Marber, and Giles Smith.

Twelve completely new stories, written by twelve undeniably imaginative voices. **Speaking with the Angel** is at turns clever, outrageous, witty, edgy, tender, and wicked. This is what they meant by original.

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## **Speaking with the Angel From Riverhead Trade Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #255483 in Books
- Brand: Riverhead Trade
- Published on: 2001-02-01
- Released on: 2001-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.97" h x .69" w x 5.10" l, .47 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 233 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

There are lots of reasons to buy *Speaking with the Angel*, an anthology of first-person narratives by bright, young, mostly British literati: these are smart and original stories, none of them previously published elsewhere. What's more, it's for a good cause. Nick Hornby, editor of the collection and author of one of the pieces, has an autistic son, and in a raw and wrenching introduction he stresses the importance of educational institutions to serve such children, who "have no language, and no particular compulsion to acquire it, who are born without the need to explore the world." Accordingly, a portion of each sale benefits autism charities around the world.

Still, this is a collection that stands on its own merits, and requires no act of charity to purchase. In Roddy Doyle's "The Slave," for example, a 42-year-old family man discovers a dead rat on his kitchen floor, and this unwelcome incursion from the natural world plunges him into a midlife crisis. In "Last Requests," Giles Smith introduces us to a prison cook who specializes in, well, last suppers. It's both hilarious and shocking to encounter this egomaniacal chef on the job:

They can have what they like, within reason, up to a maximum of three courses, with coffee or tea and a piece of confectionary or a biscuit if they want it. No alcohol, for obvious reasons. Obviously, you'll get the jokers, like the one who said he wanted a whole roast pig with an apple in its mouth. Or the governor's head, one of them said he wanted.

Elsewhere, in Hornby's own "NippleJesus," a skinhead bouncer becomes a museum guard and falls for the painting he's charged to protect, a crucifixion collage made up of thousands of tiny breasts cut out of porn magazines. The stories in *Speaking with the Angel* all feel up to the minute, abounding with references to politics and popular culture. Yet the obscenity and slang ultimately amount to a form of bluster, an acknowledgement of the intrinsic fragility that all 12 of these narrators share. --Victoria Jenkins

### From Publishers Weekly

A virtual who's who of the latest literary guard, this anthology bristles with the crackly talent and confidence of both the newly and the already fabulous. Included are Hornby himself, Melissa Bank, Dave Eggers, Helen Fielding and Zadie Smith, as well as veteran favorites Roddy Doyle and Irvine Welsh. Every story is told in the first person, and the voices are consistent, fresh, particular. Though some tales veer toward the trendy side of topical, each one surprises and entertains. Eggers's "After I Was Thrown in the River and Before I Drowned" is told by a pit bull whose anthropomorphized sensibilities and phraseology are quite lovely. Patrick Marber treads on familiar turf in "Peter Shelley," a defloration/coming-of-age story told in a blend of irreverence and awe that seems new. In "Last Requests," Giles Smith imagines some moments in the career of a Death Row chef who does her best to satisfy the inmates' final culinary wants. And Roddy Doyle further ennobles his reputation with "The Slave," in which an anxious, literate, working-class father suffers a mid-life reckoning with a large dead rat in his kitchen. None of these 12 stories disappoints. (Feb. 6) Forecast: An imaginative cover-featuring painted doll-like ceramic busts of the contributors-will catch browsers' eyes, as will Hornby's name at the top of the jacket. The should sell snappily if prominently displayed, and perhaps more so if it becomes known that some portion of the profits will go to TreeHouse, a British school for autistic children's.

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### From Library Journal

Hornby (*High Fidelity*; *About a Boy*) asked colleagues to contribute to this collection, the proceeds of which are to benefit the TreeHouse School, an institution for children with autism. Even without the noble cause, the book is worth purchasing, with new stories from the likes of Melissa Bank, Dave Eggers, Helen Fielding, and Zadie Smith. Robert Harris's "PMQ" is a hilarious send-up of a politician's peccadilloes. Other standouts include Hornby's own "NippleJesus," about a controversial artwork, told from the perspective of a museum security guard, and Roddy Doyle's "The Slave," a stream-of-consciousness tour de force in which a rat in the house is the progenitor of a man's midlife crisis. Highly recommended for public libraries; patrons may be inspired to send Hornby the money the TreeHouse School would have received if they had bought the book. *Christine DeZelar-Tiedman, Univ. of Minnesota Libs., Minneapolis*  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **William Smith:**

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed *Speaking with the Angel*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

#### **Joseph Lewis:**

Here thing why this particular *Speaking with the Angel* are different and trusted to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. *Speaking with the Angel* giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no e-book that similar with *Speaking with the Angel*. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your means home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of *Speaking with the Angel* in e-book can be your choice.

#### **Brenda Lee:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book *Speaking with the Angel* it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

**Randy Mosley:**

Do you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't determine book by its include may doesn't work is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not seeing that fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer may be Speaking with the Angel why because the excellent cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

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