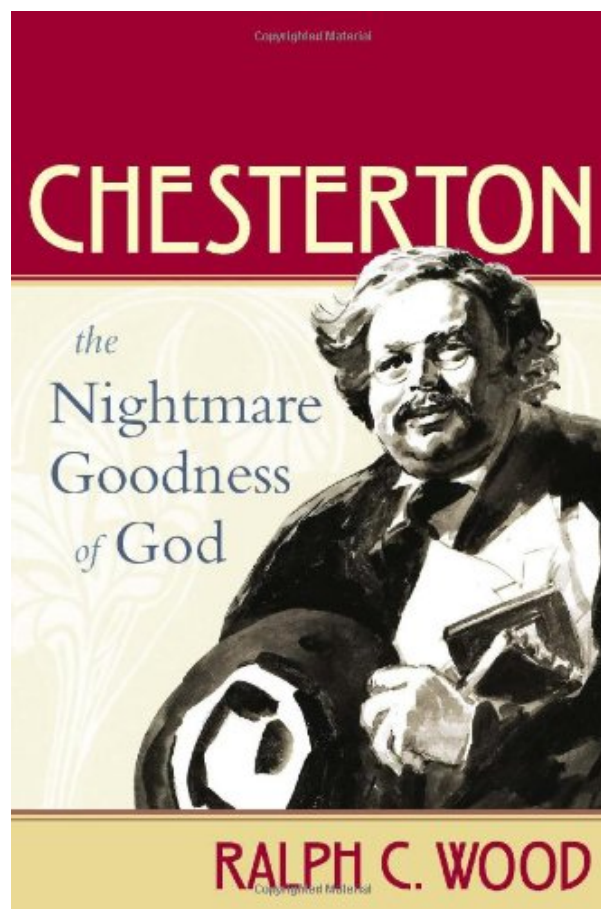


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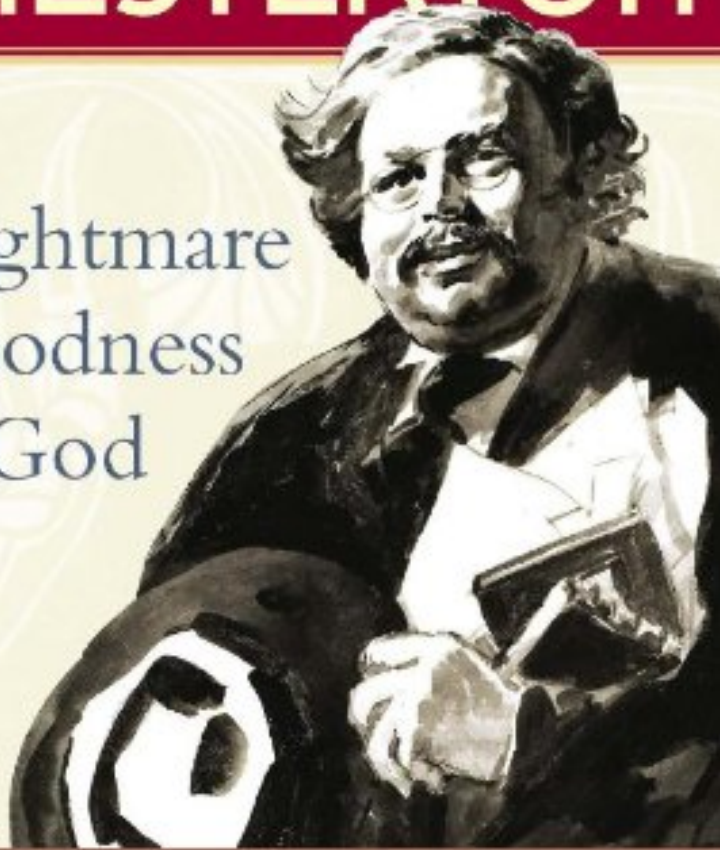
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Review

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The literary giant G. K. Chesterton is often praised as the "Great Optimist"?God's rotund jester. In this fresh and daring endeavor, Ralph Wood turns a critical eye on Chesterton's corpus to reveal the beef-and-ale believer's darker vision of the world and those who live in it. During an age when the words grace, love, and gospel, sound more hackneyed than genuine, Wood argues for a recovery of Chesterton's primary contentions: First, that the incarnation of Jesus was necessary reveals a world full not of a righteous creation but of tragedy, terror, and nightmare, and second, that the problem of evil is only compounded by a Christianity that seeks progress, political control, and cultural triumph.

Wood's sharp literary critique moves beyond formulaic or overly pious readings to show that, rather than fleeing from the ghoulish horrors of his time, Chesterton located God's mysterious goodness within the existence of evil. Chesterton seeks to reclaim the keen theological voice of this literary authority who wrestled often with the counterclaims of paganism. In doing so, it argues that Christians may have more to learn from the unbelieving world than is often supposed.

- Sales Rank: #1900222 in Books
- Published on: 2011-08-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.34" h x 1.13" w x 6.37" l, 1.38 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 325 pages

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7 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Not a Nightmare!

By Joel Fago

Based on a fascinating interview with the author, Ralph Wood, in the September/October 2012 issue of *Gilbert Magazine* and reading selections on Amazon.com, I bought this book. It is excellent!

0 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Why Footnotes in the Back of Book? Arghh!

By Baby Maven

One serious quibble: The footnoting is impossibly difficult.

First off, I usually like footnotes right there on the page being read. These are not. They are at the back of the book. For those of us who are interested in footnotes, this is so very off-putting, requiring much back-and-forth flipping to/from the back to look at the notes! I absolutely hate this.

If footnotes are put off to the end of the book, then they should be numbered consecutively throughout the book, not starting with new numbers for every chapter. The footnotes in this book, very aggravatingly, require one to look at the super-heading of the appendix with all footnotes just to know whether you are looking up notes on the correct chapter or page of the text.

I am barely into chapter one and already getting exasperated trying to keep track of the notes. I may not finish the book at all because of this serious flaw.

4 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

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By Wayne E. Stahre

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