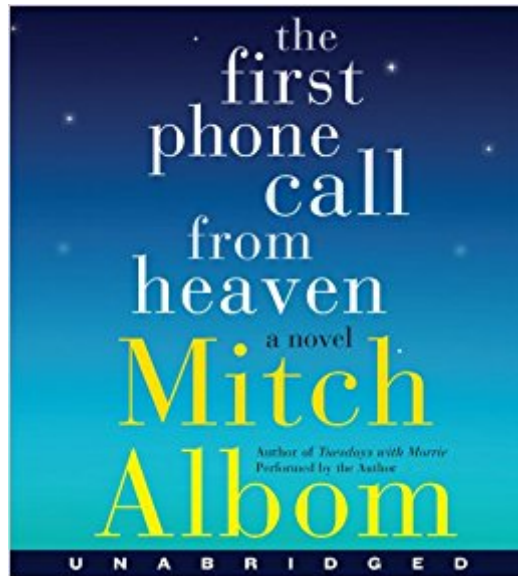




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First Phone Call From Heaven Unabridged CD, The



Synopsis

One autumn day, the phones in Coldwater, Michigan, begin ringing. The people calling are all departed loved ones. They say they are calling from heaven. On that same day, Sully Harding is released from prison for a crime he may not have committed. During his incarceration, his wife passed away. He returns to Coldwater a brokenhearted man, hoping to quietly rebuild his life with his young son. Instead, he finds his hometown gripped by miracle fever. As the mysterious phone calls increase, outsiders flock from around the world in hopes of sharing the blessing. When his son begins to carry a toy phone awaiting a call from his mother, Sully has had enough. He sets out to prove that the Coldwater phenomenon is a hoax. But is it? Or could this be the world's greatest miracle? A heart-stopping mystery and a meditation on the power of connecting with a loved one you cannot see, this is Mitch Albom's most thrilling and magical novel yet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author One-on-One: Nicholas Sparks and Mitch Albom Nicholas Sparks is the best-selling author of several beloved novels, with over 80 million copies in print worldwide. His most recent release is The Longest Ride. Nicholas Sparks: We first met years ago, when Tuesdays with Morrie and The Notebook were just out. What's been the most surprising turn for your career since that day? Mitch Albom: Pretty much everything. Tuesdays was the first nonsports thing I had done, and it was written only to pay Morrie's medical bills. I figured I'd return to sportswriting. I never imagined novels or the audience I've been blessed to find. I remember you hoping The Notebook would give you more chances to write. I think you've done OK with that, by

the way. NS: Thanks. With this new novel, *The First Phone Call from Heaven*, heaven once again figures prominently—*as it did in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven**. How do you use it differently this time? MA: *Five People* mostly takes place in heaven, to teach Eddie, the protagonist, to appreciate his life on earth. *First Phone Call* takes place in a small town, with the idea of heaven reaching out to us down here—*through the phone*. NS: You wove the story of Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone into this novel. Do you see parallels between that and our modern-day obsession with cell phones? How did this influence your story development? MA: People scoffed at the telephone’s invention. Yet once it was introduced, its growth was astronomical. Same thing with cell phones. I used this to show how the “once impossible” is quickly forgotten. Could the same be true about speaking to heaven? NS: Hearing from a deceased loved one is such a powerful idea. Whom would you talk to if you had the chance? And if Morrie from *Tuesdays with Morrie* were one, what would you ask him? MA: My mother is still alive, but has suffered several strokes and can’t speak. I wish I could dial to the past and engage in one of our long, impassioned, all-over-the-place talks. And Morrie? Well. He never got to read a page of *Tuesdays*. I’d ask if he is pleased. Am I doing OK by him? Mostly, I’d like to hear his laughter. I think we miss laughter most. NS: This is the first novel you’ve written with a mystery/thriller element. Did that change your writing process at all? And is this how you think the world would really react—*global fascination—if proof of heaven were somehow revealed*? MA: It felt quite natural to weave a mystery—*perhaps from all those years of writing sports that count down and reach a climax*. And yes, I definitely think if a town today claimed to be talking to heaven, it would be on twenty-four hours a day on cable news and the Internet. Look at the Susan Boyle story. In a week, the whole world knew of her—and she just sang like an angel. Imagine talking to one! NS: Small towns—*like Coldwater in *First Phone Call**—often paint the backdrop of your novels. Why? MA: I was raised in a small town—*local high school, one great pizza place, everyone knowing everyone*. So it’s familiar. Also, secrets in a small town are hard to keep—and often shocking when revealed. My stories are about people—and sometimes secrets. A small town is a good canvas. NS: Now that you have so many more books than just *Morrie*—*unlike when we first met*—do you have a favorite among them? MA: *Tuesdays* will always be my favored child—*because it so changed my life*. But storywise, *Five People* means a great deal, because everyone told me I was crazy—*don’t write a novel*. I broke every piece of advice. And people embraced the story. That’s extremely rewarding. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review. Albom (The Five People You Meet in Heaven) has a nose for thin places: places where the boundary between secular and sacred is porous, and ultimate meaning is easier to encounter. In his new novel, *Coldwater*, Mich., is this thin place, a town where people who have lost loved ones begin receiving phone calls from the dead in heaven. Sully Harding's wife died while he was in prison, and their young son, Jules, hopes his mom will call, even while Sully smells a hoax. Albom weaves a thread of satire into a narrative braided from the lives of smalltown residents; Coldwater becomes a media hotspot as well as battleground for religious and antireligious zealots, all awaiting the revelation they expect. A historical thread—popping into the narrative like a change-up in baseball—deals with Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone and how the instrument came to be the premier human connector. This brisk, page-turner of a story climaxes at Christmas. Another winner from Albom; this book just about shouts Give me for a holiday gift. Agent: David Black, David Black Agency. (Nov.) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“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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