



## Life After Death

By Damien Echols

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The *New York Times* bestselling memoir by Damien Echols of the West Memphis Three, who was falsely convicted of three murders and spent nearly eighteen years on Death Row—*Life After Death* is destined to be a classic of explosive, riveting prison literature.

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## Life After Death By Damien Echols Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"[Echols] has written a haunting book, and the story it tells is hardly over. He is living out a sequel that is no less strange and magickal than what he has already been through."

—**Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

"[A] tale of romance, resilience, and the power of the written word."

—**O, *the Oprah Magazine***

"Damien Echols spent eighteen years on death row for murders he did not commit. Somehow, in the depths of his unspeakable nightmare, he found the courage and strength not only to survive, but to grow, to create, to forgive, and to understand. *Life After Death* is a brilliant, haunting, painful, and uplifting narrative of a hopeless childhood, a wrongful conviction, a brutal incarceration, and the beginning of a new life."

—**John Grisham**

"Wrongfully imprisoned by willfully ignorant cops, prosecutors and judge, Damien Echols draws on all his wits and his unique view of humanity to survive eighteen years on death row. My admiration for him, and the strength of his spirit, increases with every page."

—**Sir Peter Jackson, Academy Award-winning director, producer and screenwriter**

"I am in awe of Damien's ability to write so beautifully, with such ease, humor and honesty—this is inspired storytelling, a wonderful book!"

—**Fran Walsh, Academy Award-winning screenwriter, composer and producer**

"The life of Damien Echols is a journey similar to that of the metal that becomes a samurai's sword. Heated and pounded until it becomes hardened, it can hold its edge for centuries. It is incredible that Damien endured and survived one of the most tragic miscarriages of American justice, and emerged such a centered, articulate and extraordinary man and writer. *Life After Death* proves that he paid dearly for his wisdom."

—**Henry Rollins**

"Exceptional memoir by the most famous of the West Memphis Three. [B]are facts alone would make for an interesting story. However, Echols is at heart a poet and mystic, and he has written not just a quickie one-off book to capitalize on a lurid news story, but rather a work of art that occasionally bears a resemblance to the work of Jean Genet. A voracious reader all his life, Echols vividly tells his story, from his impoverished childhood in a series of shacks and mobile homes to his emergence after half a lifetime behind bars as a psychically scarred man rediscovering freedom in New York City. The author also effectively displays his intelligence and sensitivity, qualities the Arkansas criminal justice system had no interest in recognizing during Echols' ordeal. Essential reading."

—**Kirkus Reviews (starred)**

"This is a stunning piece of work. Such hope while faced with injustice. Damien teaches us how to live."

—**Eddie Vedder**

"[Echols'] case garnered worldwide attention, but [his] memoir is about as far away from a publicity-seeking I-was-wronged story as possible. The author opts for a meatier, and certainly more haunting, account of his life behind bars, coupled with flashbacks to his childhood....Echols is a talented writer, and when the book

dips into his own spiritual and philosophical beliefs...it achieves the kind of emotional resonance that many similar books lack....A tragic and often disturbing story."

—**Booklist**

"Damien Echols suffered a shocking miscarriage of justice. A nightmare few could endure. An innocent man on death row for more than eighteen years, abused by the very system we all fund. His story will appall, fascinate, and render you feeble with tears and laughter. A brilliant memoir to battle with literary giants of the calibre of Jean Genet, Gregory David Roberts, and Dostoevsky."

—**Johnny Depp**

"[T]his is an eloquent, even bitterly lyrical, portrayal of how an innocent man can slip through the cracks of the legal system and struggle to survive. Compelling and deeply moving, in the tradition of Helen Prejean's *Dead Man Walking* and Norman Mailer's *The Executioner's Song*, this memoir will appeal to a wide audience."

—**Library Journal (starred)**

"In this searing, finely wrought memoir, Echols recalls his poverty-stricken childhood, the trial of the West Memphis 3, and the harsh realities of life on death row ... The most affecting sections are Echols's philosophical musings on all he has lost, his thoughts often influenced by Zen Buddhism....a heart-wrenching and simple commentary on American prison life."

—**Publisher's Weekly (starred)**

"[A] tale of romance, resilience, and the power of the written word."

—**Stephanie Palumbo, O, The Oprah Magazine**

"Echols is a writer whose talent is commensurate with the task of telling this story....The man who has emerged from death row at last is not quite a hero, but he's something far more interesting: an artist—and, most definitely, well worth meeting."

—**Laura Miller, Salon.com**

"Gripping...Echols has already lived a remarkable life, one forged in tragedy and all manner of iniquity. That he is able to write so movingly about the many trials he endured speaks volumes about his intellect and character."

—**Jesse Singal, The Boston Globe**

#### About the Author

**Damien Echols** was born in 1974 and grew up in Mississippi, Tennessee, Maryland, Oregon, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. At age eighteen he was wrongfully convicted of murder, along with Jason Baldwin and Jessie Miskelley, Jr. Echols received a death sentence and spent almost eighteen years on Death Row, until he, Baldwin, and Miskelley were released in 2011. The West Memphis Three have been the subject of *Paradise Lost*, a three-part documentary series produced by HBO, and *West of Memphis*, a documentary produced by Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh. Echols is the author of a self-published memoir, *Almost Home*. He and his wife, Lorri Davis, live in Massachusetts.

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I have the shape of a dead man on the wall of my cell. It was left behind by the last occupant. He stood against the wall and traced around himself with a pencil, then shaded it in. It looks like a very faint shadow, and it's barely noticeable until you see it. It took me nearly a week to notice it for the first time, but once you see it you can't un-see it....Perhaps it's just superstition, but I can't help feeling that erasing it would be like

erasing the fact that he ever existed. That may not be such a bad thing, all things considered, but I won't be the one to do it.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lou Whisenhunt:**

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the publications. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors in this world always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this Life After Death.

#### **Victor Parisi:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is usually Life After Death.

#### **Jamie Leal:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Life After Death your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get previous to. The Life After Death giving you a different experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life on this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

#### **Julie Bailey:**

Many people spending their period by playing outside along with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can actually hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Life After Death which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's observe.

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