

Richard Paul Evans

Reading Group Discussion Guide

The Christmas Box Miracle



1. In the beginning of *The Christmas Box Miracle*, author Richard Paul Evans mentions a blessing from his grandfather in which he is told that he will someday “walk with the royalty of the earth”. Do you feel that this promise was fulfilled? Was this an example of divine destiny or was it an example of the power of suggestion?
2. Evans begins his book with eight things he has come to believe, one of which is his belief in a “divine life purpose”. What is a divine life purpose? Do you believe in this as well? Does this apply to all people? Is such a belief central to all religious belief?
3. Evans writes that all great moments are preceded by moments of adversity. Do you agree with this? What adversity did Evans face in the publishing of his book?
4. Since the introduction of *The Christmas Box*, Evans has written six best-selling novels, all of which are inspirational love stories. *The Christmas Box Miracle* is his first work of non-fiction. Do you think it is risky for a novelist to depart from what his/her readers have come to expect? Why do you think Evans would take such a risk?
5. In the first four chapters of *The Christmas Box Miracle* the author writes about his childhood. Do you believe he had a difficult childhood or an average one? How has his experiences affected his writing?
6. The *Washington Post* called Evans “a savvy marketer”. What impact did Evans’ marketing background have on the sales of his book? Did the *Christmas Box* sell because of his marketing skills or for other reasons?
7. After receiving a four million dollar advance for the hardcover rights to his book, Evans writes about the money as if it were a curse. Is this a common response by those who suddenly come into money such as lottery winners?
8. The author writes about people coming to his booksignings and events without knowing why, only to discover the relevance of *The Christmas Box* to their own lives and losses. How do you explain this phenomena?
9. Evans calls the time “his greatest moment” when failure seemed to be imminent. Why?
10. Richard Paul Evans told a reporter that at one point in the writing of the *Christmas Box Miracle* he dropped his head and wept. Why would an author share such personal life experiences with strangers?
11. Does knowing that Richard Evans donates a substantial amount of his time and royalties to help abused children affect how you feel about his writing?
12. From reading Evans’s books how do you think he feels about his readers?