

Embraced by the Light Study Guide

Embraced by the Light by Betty Eadie

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Plot Summary

Embraced by the Light is a story of a near death experience, and how it changed the life of the author, Betty J. Eadie. In the hospital for a simple surgery, Ms. Eadie found herself floating above her body for reasons she did not fully understand until many years later and moving into a spiritual realm she had never dreamed could exist. In this realm, Ms. Eadie learned many truths that she carried into her existence on Earth and continues to learn from. *Embraced by the Light* is a story of courage and spiritual enlightenment that goes beyond the mortal realm.

The story begins, as Ms. Eadie enters the hospital in order to undergo a hysterectomy. While Ms. Eadie was waiting for sleep to claim her the first night in the hospital, she thought back on her childhood, and the one experience she had as a small child in a similar hospital in which she recalled nearly dying. During this time, Ms. Eadie recalled having been held in the arms of a bearded man. No one could recall a man like this after Ms. Eadie's experience.

Ms. Eadie's childhood was a rocky one, as she also recalled on this night. Ms. Eadie's parents divorced when she was young, and she was sent to a Catholic boarding school that left Ms. Eadie with many confusing opinions regarding God and religion. A result of this confusion caused Ms. Eadie to not be able to find a religion in which she felt comfortable attending services for each Sunday.

Also as a result of her parents' rocky marriage, Ms. Eadie found herself marrying at a very young age. This marriage resulted in four children and an early divorce. Within a year, Ms. Eadie married again, this time to an Air Force soldier. Together, Ms. Eadie and her new husband had three more children, the later with whom they experienced a very rocky and uncertain pregnancy. This was the experience that led Ms. Eadie to her current circumstances. The result of so many pregnancies led Ms. Eadie to require a hysterectomy.

The surgery went well, though Ms. Eadie does not recall the hours after the procedure. Alone that night, Ms. Eadie experienced a moment in which she began to feel very weak and was suddenly propelled out of her body. Ms. Eadie became conscious then of three monk-like men standing over her bed anxious to help her, all the while telling her that her death was premature. After a quick visit to her family, Ms. Eadie was propelled down a dark tunnel to a place where she came face to face with a man she believed to be Jesus.

After speaking with Jesus for a long while, Ms. Eadie was taken on a tour of what she called a spirit world in which she learned many things about spirits and life after death. During this time, Ms. Eadie also learned many rules by which spirits are governed while on earth and discovered truths about herself she might never have known.

When Ms. Eadie returned to her Earth body, she became very depressed by the weight and mortality of her body. Demons attempted to kill her in the first hours after her



experience, but Ms. Eadie was saved by a dome of light from the spirit world. It was also during this time that Ms. Eadie saw the spirit of a little girl she would later recognize in a small child, who came to live as a part of her family.

It was many years after her experiences that Ms. Eadie took in a foster child of alcoholic parents in order to give the state time to find her a new home. During the ten months Ms. Eadie had custody of this child, she fell deeply in love with her. When the child was adopted, Ms. Eadie soon learned that she had been badly abused and would be returned to her, just as a dream had shown her she would. Years after adopting this child, Ms. Eadie recognized in her the spirit she was in her hospital room soon after her near-death experience.



Chapter 1, The First Night

Chapter 1, The First Night Summary and Analysis

Embraced by the Light is a story of a near death experience and how it changed the life of the author, Betty J. Eadie. In the hospital for a simple surgery, Ms. Eadie found herself floating above her body for reasons she did not fully understand until many years later and moving into a spiritual realm she had never dreamed could exist. In this realm, Ms. Eadie learned many truths that she carried into her existence on Earth and continues to learn from. *Embraced by the Light* is a story of courage and spiritual enlightenment that goes beyond the mortal realm.

Betty Eadie was admitted to the hospital the evening of November 18, 1973 in order to undergo a partial hysterectomy. Ms. Eadie's husband had just left, and she was feeling uneasy, as though something was about to go wrong. Ms. Eadie put her feelings down to the fact that she had rarely spent a night without her husband or her children. Ms. Eadie, the mother of seven, had six living children at home. One child had died of SIDS as an infant. The dread Ms. Eadie felt reminded her of a time when she was a child and was admitted to the hospital.

Her parents separated when Ms. Eadie was four. Her father was a Scotch-Irishman, her mother a Sioux Indian. During the separation, Ms. Eadie and five of her nine siblings were sent to Catholic boarding school. The first winter there, Ms. Eadie had a bout of whopping cough and double pneumonia. The first night in the hospital, Ms. Eadie could remember hearing the doctor say they had lost her and being held in the arms of a bearded man. Later Ms. Eadie remembered hearing the nurse announce she was breathing again. When her parents arrived, Ms. Eadie asked them about the man with the beard, but no one remembered seeing him.

Ms. Eadie then recalled the building in which the boarding school was housed. There was a chain linked fence between the boys and girls sides, so the only time Ms. Eadie saw her brothers was at church services on Sunday. Whenever Ms. Eadie would strain her neck to see her brothers, she would be hit on the head with a stick with a rubber ball on the end. Ms. Eadie would be destined to be hit with that ball quite often as she found it difficult to understand the procedures of a Catholic mass. Ms. Eadie learned a lot about God at this school, however. Ms. Eadie learned that as an Indian she was a heathen and sinner and that the nuns, although they beat the children, were special in God's eyes. Ms. Eadie learned in this school to fear God.

Ms. Eadie turned her thoughts to happier times in her past. She had attended another school, Brainerd Indian Training School. This school was cozier with less of the severity of the Catholic school. Here Ms. Eadie learned that God was different to all people, but she still feared him. Ms. Eadie struggled with her belief in God all through her adolescents, praying to him but convinced he did not hear her prayers.



Later, Ms. Eadie moved in with her father and saw a searchlight in the sky. Convinced it was the Second Coming, Ms. Eadie became hysterical until her father convinced her it was only a search light advertising a carnival in town. Ms. Eadie continued to search for the truth in God, finally coming to believe that the spirit remains with the body until resurrection day when God would come, and the righteous would rise up with him.

The point of view of the book is established in the first paragraph of this chapter in which the author announces herself in the first person. These first few paragraphs also set the tone of the book as they are written in simple, conversational language and a informal tone. Ms. Eadie uses this first chapter also to introduce herself to the reader and to give some background on herself. There are flashbacks in which the writer reflects on her childhood. In each of the flashbacks, an event of importance takes place that foreshadows future events in the book. Ms. Eadie discusses a near death experience she had as a four-year-old child. Ms. Eadie also introduces her religious background, a theme of the novel, by explaining to the reader how she attended several religious schools that taught her different views of God and religion, views that often contradicted each other and created a situation in which Ms. Eadie simply became very confused. It is important for the reader to note that Ms. Eadie had no religious affiliation as a child and to recognize the confusion in which she continued to exist, as she grew older. This religious confusion will prove to be an important element in her life.



Chapter 2, The Night Deepens

Chapter 2, The Night Deepens Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie called home in order to hear a familiar voice. Ms. Eadie's husband, Joe, was not home yet, so she spoke to each of her children and wished them all a good night. This phone call and the sound of her children's voices reminded Ms. Eadie of her childhood and her desire to have a family. Ms. Eadie never had a secure family, always moving between her parents and different schools. Ms. Eadie decided she would marry as soon as possible and create her own family. At fifteen, while living with her mother, Ms. Eadie fell in love with the boy next door and was married.

The marriage lasted six years and produced four children, the youngest of which died of SIDS at three months of age. Ms. Eadie met Joe the Christmas after her divorce. Joe was in the Air Force, also divorced and from a similar background. Joe was the perfect man, great with her children and kind and considerate to Ms. Eadie. Joe and Ms. Eadie married and then moved to San Antonio when Joe was transferred to Randolph Air Force Base in order to train with computers. During their four years there, Ms. Eadie gave birth to two boys. It was also during this time that Ms. Eadie felt the need to add religion to her life, but was unable to find a church she and Joe felt comfortable attending. Still nervous over the surgery, Ms. Eadie began to think about death and what she might find on the other side. A nurse came in to give her sleeping pills, but Ms. Eadie refused. However, her thought changed her mind, and she requested the pills anyway, quickly falling asleep.

There are more flashbacks in this chapter in the form of memories Ms. Eadie is entertaining while trying to keep her mind off of her impending surgery. Ms. Eadie spends this chapter introducing her husband and giving the reader some insight into her personal life, including her marriages and her children. Also given in this chapter is information regarding Ms. Eadie's search for a religion she could feel comfortable incorporating into her life. The reader will note here that Ms. Eadie never found one she could feel happy with. This is important, a foreshadowing of sorts, in which the reader is told that Ms. Eadie has no religious affiliation, because events later in the book might make the reader believe that religion has provided a basis for the images and the knowledge that she gains during her out of body experience. Ms. Eadie clearly wants to make the point that this is not the case. This also presents for the reader Ms. Eadie's perspective in writing this book, her motivations, as well as where she was emotionally and mentally before this experience.



Chapter 3, The Second Day

Chapter 3, The Second Day Summary and Analysis

The next morning, Ms. Eadie woke and began to think about another time in which she was in the hospital. It was shortly after Joe retired from the Air Force, and the family moved to the Northwest. Ms. Eadie found out she was pregnant although she and Joe had taken precautions against such an event. In the third month Ms. Eadie began to experience bleeding. In the hospital, the doctors told her she was passing fetal material and was having a miscarriage. When the miscarriage did not complete after a few days, the doctors recommended an abortion. At first Ms. Eadie and Joe agreed, but after hearing a doctor say he could not understand why the baby was hanging in there, Ms. Eadie decided she did not want an abortion.

Ms. Eadie and Joe search for and found a doctor, who would support their decision to continue the pregnancy. Ms. Eadie was placed on bed rest for the entire pregnancy. The children were warned of the possibility that the baby would be born deformed or handicapped. Then the waiting game began. Finally, it was time. Ms. Eadie, afraid of facing a damaged child on her own, insisted that Joe be in the delivery room with her although this was uncommon at the time. Joe was there when the baby was born, a perfect little boy.

Seven pregnancies had been hard on Ms. Eadie's body, and now the doctors wanted to do a hysterectomy. The nurse came into the room and woke Ms. Eadie so she could give her sleeping medication for the surgery. It was later afternoon when Ms. Eadie woke again to find the doctor assuring her everything had gone well. Later a nurse told Ms. Eadie that her husband and some friends had come to see her, although she did not recall the visit. The nurse brought Ms. Eadie her medication around nine. After calling Joe, Ms. Eadie turned off the television and fell asleep, aware of being chilled and terribly light-headed.

Once more, Ms. Eadie flashes back in time in order to share with the reader another time in which she experienced a horrifying hospital visit, perhaps to explain her reluctance to be in the hospital at all. This previous visit revolved around the birth of her seventh child, a child who was supposed to be deformed according to the doctors but came into the world a perfect little boy. Perhaps this is also supposed to show Ms. Eadie's connection to her children and her belief in divine intervention. Once again Ms. Eadie's perspective is revealed her. Ms. Eadie is a woman who has had many difficult times in her life and has survived each one, proving she is a fighter. This foreshadows the following chapters in which Ms. Eadie fails to fight for her own life and perhaps this perspective explains in part why she chooses to do such a thing.



Chapter 4, My Death

Chapter 4, My Death Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie woke almost immediately with a sense of danger. Ms. Eadie tried to call the nurse, but was unable to reach the cord. All energy seemed to be draining from her and suddenly Ms. Eadie felt her spirit pop free of her body. Ms. Eadie hovered above her body and looked down on it, recognizing that her body was dead. Ms. Eadie studied her body with a view that she had never had before and was not happy with what she saw, with her own appearance that suddenly seemed very foreign to her. Three people appeared beside Ms. Eadie's bed, three men in robes. These men appeared to be seventy or eighty, but Ms. Eadie thought that they were probably much older.

The men spoke to Ms. Eadie, told her that they were her friends, that they had known her for eternities. The men told Ms. Eadie that they had been her ministering angels on Earth during her lifetime and that she had died prematurely. They told her that everything would be alright, and she should not worry. The men seemed able to express their thoughts and emotions to Ms. Eadie through a sort of telepathy. That they could express emotions to her much stronger than anything she could express in her human body.

Ms. Eadie began to think about her children and her husband. Ms. Eadie flew to her home and found her husband in his easy chair, and the children preparing for bed. While watching the children, Ms. Eadie found herself watching their lives, their futures, seeing things they would experience in their lives. Ms. Eadie felt happy about their futures and felt it would be alright for her to move on. Back at the hospital, Ms. Eadie stared down at her body with her three friends and suddenly she began to hear a rushing sound.

Ms. Eadie describes her death with a calm tone in this chapter, showing the reader how little fear there was as her spirit popped free from her physical body. This calm tone is slightly different from the tone of earlier chapters in which a sense of foreboding had settled over the story Ms. Eadie was telling. The popping free of her spirit introduces a new theme to the book, near death experiences. This theme will be explored in detail over the next few chapter in which Ms. Eadie tells the reader most everything she can remember from this experience. The introduction of the three monks in this chapter begins an introduction to many such forms and to the experience in which Ms. Eadie is about to embark. It is also important to note here how Ms. Eadie went to check on her family before beginning her journey. This will prove to be important later, when Ms. Eadie is forced to make a choice whether or not to return to her physical world.



Chapter 5, The Tunnel

Chapter 5, The Tunnel Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie sensed a great power coming into the room with her and heard a great rushing sound. A darkness began to surround her, and she was drawn into something, as though being swallowed by a tornado. Ms. Eadie had been afraid of darkness all her life and knew she should be afraid now, but somehow she was not. Ms. Eadie traveled without effort, reclined, moving in a wave of tranquility that she felt she could live in forever. Ms. Eadie sensed other people and animals moving in the dark with her, and there were some who were not moving but appeared to be lingering in the darkness. Ms. Eadie felt peace and love in this darkness, a tranquility she had never felt before.

This chapter begins the actual near death experience that Ms. Eadie participated in shortly after her death. The tunnel, a common theme in most of these experiences, seems to be a symbol of the resurrection many Christian churches speak of, and the stalled bodies Ms. Eadie senses are perhaps victims of purgatory, a state of waiting that many Christian churches once taught about. This chapter also foreshadows the next in which Ms. Eadie expands upon her trip to the spirit world.



Chapter 6, Embraced by the Light

Chapter 6, Embraced by the Light Summary and Analysis

A light appeared at the end of the tunnel, and Ms. Eadie felt herself moving faster toward the light. In the light, Ms. Eadie could see a man inside it, the light growing brighter and brighter as she approached. The light around the man seemed to be some sort of halo and as Ms. Eadie came closer she realized there was light around her as well, a light that seemed to melt into his. When the lights merged, Ms. Eadie could feel an overwhelming love coming from this man. Soon, Ms. Eadie realized the man was Jesus Christ. Ms. Eadie hugged him, so happy to be in his presence and to be accepted with all her sins and faults in view.

Jesus told Ms. Eadie that she had died too soon and had not finished her mission. Ms. Eadie was happy to know her life had meaning, but sad to think of leaving him again. Then, as Ms. Eadie studied his face, questions began to bubble to her mind, questions regarding the religious training she had received in her life. Jesus began to answer these questions without Ms. Eadie having spoken them, aware of her questions through their lights. Jesus answered each question completely as fast as Ms. Eadie could think them. Jesus told her the spirit is meant for the body, not the grave. Therefore, the spirit does not wait in the grave for the day of resurrection.

Ms. Eadie asked why there are so many churches in the world and Jesus told her it was, because each spirit on Earth was at a different place in their beliefs and their level of knowledge, therefore the different churches offer different levels of learning and understanding. Ms. Eadie asked what the purpose of life on Earth was. Jesus showed her the creation of the Earth and explained that all spirits had a hand in the creation and that each spirit has a role in life on Earth. Ms. Eadie began to see how every creation, every invention, begins as a thought in a spirit. That when a spirit goes to Earth it has a specific mission to fulfill and that the spirits choose this mission before going to Earth to be born in the body of a mortal being. On Earth, each spirit is given the right to act on his own for himself unless they ask directly for God's help.

Ms. Eadie was told that Earth is not our natural home, but that the spirit inhabits the body in order to learn and further their knowledge. The body is weak, however, but full of love and truth, with love being the most important thing above all else. People on Earth should not judge others, because we are all the same in God's eyes and that showing love is the most important act a spirit can perform while in human form. Ms. Eadie watched the creation of the Earth and watched the pioneers crossing the continent. Some succeeded and some failed due to their own weakness or the weakness of others. Ms. Eadie saw that all the spirits were placed on Earth, because they had something to learn from the experience. Ms. Eadie saw it as a perfect plan.



This chapter introduces the reader to a new character, Jesus. Although never a devote Christian, Ms. Eadie recognizes this man on sight and is happy to be in his presence. This was foreshadowed in earlier chapters as Ms. Eadie made it clear to her readers that she is not a Jesus-freak or extremely religious. On the contrary, Ms. Eadie appears to be very confused about religion. To recognize this man as Jesus instantly seems to give credence to Ms. Eadie's assertion that communicating with this man is all through telepathy and does not require vocalization since her religious training would not have prepared her for this meeting, for the love she feels from this man rather than fear she was taught to expect. The tone of the book changes somewhat here as well, turning away from the fear Ms. Eadie felt in the time before her surgery to a sense of tranquility and happiness.



Chapter 7, The Laws

Chapter 7, The Laws Summary and Analysis

Jesus began to tell Ms. Eadie about the laws that govern our existence on Earth. There are many laws, spiritual, physical, and universal laws that help to fulfill a purpose. By living true to the laws the spirits will further their knowledge and be further blessed. If the laws are broken, the spirits weaken and destroy what they have achieved. There is also a cause and effect to sinning. If the spirits breaks the laws of the flesh by over-eating or under-eating then there will be the consequences of illness and death. The flesh of the body cannot become a part of the spirit, therefore in order for the body to be in harmony, the spirit, the body, and the mind must become harmonized.

A person's power is in there thoughts. Ms. Eadie learned that positive attracts positive as does negative attract negative. That a person's mind can attract positive simply by thinking positive thoughts. A person's imagination is the key to reality. Everything begins in the mind. Ms. Eadie also learned that love is everything, that loving God is the key to all that is positive about life on Earth. Ms. Eadie also learned that loving others is very important, but to do that one must learn to love them. Ms. Eadie had always feared God and now she knew he was not to be feared, that fear was the Devil's greatest tool.

In this chapter, Ms. Eadie learns the rules under which all spirits live will on Earth. These rules are simple but strict and carry tough penalties. These laws, however, clarify things that Ms. Eadie had never understood during her time on Earth, including the idea that one was not to love God but to fear him. Now Ms. Eadie has learned that love is everything, as she mentioned in the chapter before. Ms. Eadie's perspective is clear in this chapter, as that of a woman who has just discovered the truth of existence on Earth. This changes the tone of the book once more to an optimistic look at life and an understanding of our condition that is on a level no one has ever explored before.



Chapter 8, Healing and Dying

Chapter 8, Healing and Dying Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie, now understanding the idea of positive and negative powers on the body, now began to learn how our mind and spirit can effect our bodies. Ms. Eadie learned that the spirit controls the mind, and the mind controls the body, therefore the spirit can heal the body. Ms. Eadie also learned that depression is the most negative and self-centered state a body can be in. Ms. Eadie also learned that at one time the body had had the power to replace cells that were damaged, but this power was modified in the Garden of Eden. Now bodies can no longer live forever, but must die. However, the spirit can still heal the body with positive thoughts if it is God's will.

Ms. Eadie also learned that most spirits choose the illness they will suffer while on Earth, that these illnesses are to teach the spirits or other spirits knowledge they need in order to grow. Other spirits may chose to die in an accident, in a drunken driving accident for example. This may be in order to teach the drunk not to drive or to put him jail so he cannot hurt someone else. Ms. Eadie also learned that most experiences in life are designed to teach the person something, even negative experience and that the person should not give in to fear or guilt since these are tools of the devil. Ms. Eadie also learned that there is always forgiveness in God and that we must ask for forgiveness in order to begin the healing process. Ms. Eadie also learned that suicide is something one should never consider, because it will ruin all chances of completing a mission on Earth and will consume the spirit in pain and sorrow.

Ms. Eadie has learned much about the power of the spirit over the body in this chapter. This has caused Ms. Eadie's perspective on life and living to change once more. Ms. Eadie is receiving a greater understanding of life in this experience as she continues to have her questions answered by Jesus. Ms. Eadie's purpose has also shifted somewhat in this chapter. No longer is Ms. Eadie trying to explain herself, but the laws she has learned. Ms. Eadie is now attempting to educate her reader by sharing her experiences and explaining how she comprehended what she saw and heard while in the presence of Jesus.



Chapter 9, The Looms and the Library

Chapter 9, The Looms and the Library Summary and Analysis

Two woman joined Ms. Eadie and Jesus, two women whom Ms. Eadie seemed to recognize from a time before she lived on Earth. These women were to take Ms. Eadie on a tour of the spirit world. Ms. Eadie's memory was not clear about this tour, but she remembered being taken to a large room in which many people working on old fashioned looms making a cloth that was opaque on one side and transparent on the other. Ms. Eadie was told that these cloths were to make clothing for the spirits who were new arrivals to the spirit world. Ms. Eadie and her companions then moved on, though Ms. Eadie's memory was not complete on all they saw. However, Ms. Eadie remembered being taken to a library where all she had to do was stand in the room to receive any knowledge she desired.

Ms. Eadie's tour of the spirit world foreshadows the next few chapters as she continues her journey through this mysterious world she has come to visit. The beginning of the tour shows Ms. Eadie a room in which cloth is made for the spirits newly returned to the spirit world. It is interesting to note that Ms. Eadie was not offered any clothing in this room, perhaps foreshadowing her decision to stay or return to Earth. The library is also interesting though it seems to be similar to the knowledge Ms. Eadie learned while standing in the presence of Jesus.



Chapter 10, The Garden

Chapter 10, The Garden Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie was taken next to a garden where she was left alone to explore. The garden was magnificent with many valleys and mountains and rivers in the distance. Light seemed to pour from the vegetation in many different colors, leaving Ms. Eadie with the realization that the plants had intelligence and were ready to do God's will whatever it might be. A river fed by a waterfall flowed through the garden, and Ms. Eadie was drawn to it, aware that it too had a life of its own. A rose caught Ms. Eadie's attention, and she wanted to be close to it, to feel what it felt. Suddenly, it was as if she and the rose were one, swaying to the music of all the other plants. Ms. Eadie was greatly moved by this experience.

This chapter's thesis seems to be that all plants have an intelligence of their own and that they grow, because God wills it. Ms. Eadie's experience with the rose seems to symbolize her desire to be one with nature and to feel the joy of God's will herself. This touches on the theme of religion, a theme that takes on many dimensions throughout this book. Here the dimension is not so much about organized religion as the reader may understand it, but of being a part of something that takes a soul close to God. This rose symbolizes Ms. Eadie's religion, Ms. Eadie's attempt to be closer to God.



Chapter 11, Greeting Party

Chapter 11, Greeting Party Summary and Analysis

A group of spirits came into the garden and greeted Ms. Eadie. It was a graduation party of sorts, celebrating Ms. Eadie's return from her time on Earth. Ms. Eadie's three monks were there as well as her guides. The guides told Ms. Eadie she had died prematurely and that this was not a graduation party but to show her what it would be like when she returned again. The guides told Ms. Eadie that when a person dies their spirits leave their bodies immediately, sometimes even before death as in a sudden, traumatic death. Then the spirits are given the choice of moving on to the spirit world or remaining on Earth. The guides also told Ms. Eadie that the more knowledge the spirit has before going to Earth, the faster they will accomplish their mission and acquire more knowledge. Some remain on Earth, however, such as atheist, who has no belief or knowledge of the spirit world while on Earth. The only way a spirit can return to the spirit world, they told Ms. Eadie, was for them to believe in Jesus.

Again the theme of religion comes into this chapter as the reader notices the similarities between what the spirit guides are telling Ms. Eadie and what religion preaches. The only way to get to heaven is to believe in Jesus they say. There is some irony in this statement since it is being made to a woman who confessed to being confused about religion and afraid of God before this experience in which she learned all these rules and facts. This chapter also foreshadows the next. Ms. Eadie has been told for the third time that she has died prematurely. The next few chapters will reveal what will be done about this premature visit.



Chapter 12, Many Worlds

Chapter 12, Many Worlds Summary and Analysis

Two new beings took over the guide role as Ms. Eadie began to think of all the other worlds that God had been credited with creating. Ms. Eadie and her guides flew through space to see these worlds. Though Ms. Eadie has little memory of the specifics of this tour, she remembered traveling for what seemed like weeks, and she remembered the feel of God's love. Ms. Eadie also remembered the sense of seeing many intelligent, loving people, of knowing they were children of God as well. Ms. Eadie also came away from the experience with the feeling she had been to these places before, before her time on Earth. Later, Ms. Eadie will look back on this tour and feel cheated that she does not remember it, but grateful she was given the chance to take the tour.

This chapter moves beyond the popular Christian beliefs regarding Jesus and God. This chapter shows Ms. Eadie many other worlds that God has created and populated with spirits. Ms. Eadie's thesis in this chapter seems to be to show how great and powerful God is and how many spirits there are out there learning and gaining knowledge just the like she is. Ms. Eadie then flashes into the future of her story and tells the reader how upset she is to have this experience taken from her memories. This once again changes the tone by adding a small spark of negativity into the narrative.

Chapter 13, Selecting a Body

Chapter 13, Selecting a Body Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie was returned to the garden where she then asked how we grow. The guides told Ms. Eadie that the spirits chose to go to Earth in order to further their knowledge and that they normally chose their own bodies, and the struggles they will face throughout their time on life. Ms. Eadie was shown that not all spirits chose to go to Earth in bodies that many chose to act as guardian angels to assist those who did. Ms. Eadie also saw some of the spirits preparing to go to Earth, such as one young man, who was attempting to get the man and woman who would someday be his parents to come together. Ms. Eadie was also told that many spirits who bond in the spirit world often chose to go to Earth together as family or friends.

Ms. Eadie learned that the body retains memories in its cells so that when a child is born, its body retains the memories of his ancestors. This sometimes leads to addiction problems in bodies that remember addictions, or it can also cause moments of *dyja vu* for bodies that experience something similar to an event that happened to an ancestor.

Ms. Eadie was told that a spirit could enter a body at any point in a pregnancy and that a spirit will feel the rejection of an abortion. Ms. Eadie learned that some spirits chose to go into bodies that will not live for a long period of time or bodies that will be born handicapped in some way. Each spirit had a purpose for being on Earth and each would only remain for how ever long it took to fulfill this purpose. During this time, Ms. Eadie saw a female spirit that struck her as especially beautiful and cheerful, realizing that she knew this woman and that she would be a special angel for someone.

This chapter introduces some interesting theories about life and death. The spirits are given the choice of the struggles they will face and some will only be on Earth for a short time. The tone shifts here once again to one of hope and inspiration, offering to the reader a sense of purpose for every life that has ever taken a breath on Earth. This touches on the theme of religion again as the reader notes the parallel between these ideas and the teachings of many Christian churches. The final section of the chapter in which Ms. Eadie notes a beautiful young spirit, who seems familiar to her foreshadows the final chapter of the novel in which Ms. Eadie recognizes this spirit once again.



Chapter 14, Drunken Man

Chapter 14, Drunken Man Summary and Analysis

To illustrate the idea that each life has a purpose on Earth, the guides showed Ms. Eadie a drunken man on a street corner on Earth. This man was a well-respected spirit from the spirit world, who had chosen to go to Earth as a drunken man in order to help a friend. The friend, a rich lawyer, needed to be reminded to help people like the drunken man. The guides told Ms. Eadie that this plan was made between the two spirits before they left for their missions on Earth. Ms. Eadie was also told that many friends in the spirit world often find each other on Earth and recognize each other although they may not realize why in their mortal bodies. The spirit guides told Ms. Eadie that all spirits must help each other on Earth, that it is a blessing to help those less fortunate.

This chapter again touches on the theme of religion as it once again parallels the teachings of many Christian churches. The drunken man has given up his mission on Earth in order to remind his friend to be kind to the less fortunate. This follows many teachings within the bible, as well as the idea that sacrifice for the greater good is the best thing a person can do for others. It also gives a deeper explanation to all Ms. Eadie has learned about the laws governing spirits on Earth.



Chapter 15, Prayer

Chapter 15, Prayer Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie was shown the Earth again, and she could see lights shooting up from it, some small, some large. Ms. Eadie was told these were prayers making their way to the spirit world. The brighter prayers were filled with faith and intensity, while the less bright prayers were insincere or repetitious. All prayers were heard and answered, Ms. Eadie was told, just not always in the manner the recipient might want. Prayers for others have a great strength but cannot always be answered since they might go against that person's freewill or God's will. Ms. Eadie confessed then that she had often thrown a tantrum of sort when her prayers were not answered and had often believed that God never heard her. Now she knew she was wrong. Ms. Eadie also learned the importance of thanking God for prayers answered.

This chapter also explores some of the ideas of religious thinking and thus enters into the theme of religion. Many religions teach that God answers all prayers to His will, though some answers may not be what the asker might have wanted. The author's purpose in this chapter seems to be an effort to show the reader that she was not a good Christian, as exemplified by her confession that she often threw tantrums when her prayers were not answered and often believed God did not hear her. This is important to the writer since she has been making this point repeatedly. Perhaps the writer wants it clear to the reader that her experience did not come from her religious training, but actually contradicted many aspects of it.



Chapter 16, The Council of Men

Chapter 16, The Council of Men Summary and Analysis

The guides took Ms. Eadie to a building next in which she was led to a room where a group of men sat around a kidney shaped table. Ms. Eadie noted the lack of women but was not offended since she now understood that woman had a role separate of men in this spirit world and that woman are more susceptible to the power of Satan. Woman must be protected since their downfall would lead quickly to the downfall of men.

The council told Ms. Eadie that she had died prematurely, and it was important for her to return and finish her mission. Ms. Eadie hesitated when they asked what she wanted to do, so the men offered to show Ms. Eadie her life so far. This review showed Ms. Eadie how her sins had affected other people and how it rippled through the world to affect many more people. At first Ms. Eadie felt ashamed, but Jesus appeared and show her how her kind acts also rippled through the world. Ms. Eadie felt better when she realized all her actions affect people, not just the negative ones. This experience helped Ms. Eadie understand herself and forgive herself.

When the review ended, Ms. Eadie refused to return to Earth. Jesus offered to show her her mission. Ms. Eadie learned this mission, though the memory of it was taken from her, and realized she must return. However, Ms. Eadie made Jesus promise that the moment her mission was complete he would allow her to come back. He agreed.

Ms. Eadie is taken to a room of men, who seem to control the actions of the spirits in some way and told she must return. Before making her decision, Ms. Eadie is shown her life thus far. This is ironic since there is the joke that people see their lives flash before their eyes in the moment of death. Then Ms. Eadie is told what her purpose on Earth is, her mission. This is a piece of knowledge many people would like to know, as many people have spent their lives searching for the meaning of their lives, and Ms. Eadie is handed the knowledge, though she is not allowed to take it with her. This too is irony. Ms. Eadie's final decision has been made and not only does it satisfy foreshadowing from previous chapters, it foreshadows the rest of the book as the reader must wonder how this experience will affect Ms. Eadie's life.



Chapter 17, The Farewell

Chapter 17, The Farewell Summary and Analysis

Many angels surrounded Ms. Eadie once the decision was made and began to sing. Ms. Eadie realized that no one was insignificant to these magnificent beings. Ms. Eadie saw a vision of Earth once more and saw people struggling with angels singing above them, overwhelmed by the idea of being equal among these beings. Ms. Eadie said goodbye to her many friends, grateful for this experience but saddened to leave.

Ms. Eadie has learned a lot in her experience, but now it is time to go on. Ms. Eadie's purpose here seems to be to make it clear to the reader that she had agreed to go home, but she was not happy about it. Ms. Eadie also wants the reader to know that we are all equal in the eyes of the spirits, the angels, and God. This is important since much negative energy revolves around the idea of inequality.



Chapter 18, My Return

Chapter 18, My Return Summary and Analysis

Ms. Eadie found herself back in her hospital room. The sight of her body on the bed upset her, because it seemed like a dirty old coat she would have to put back on after a shower. Ms. Eadie sank into a depression the moment her spirit returned to her body, depressed by its weight. Her three monks returned to help her adjust, giving her a sense of peace. Ms. Eadie fell asleep only to wake soon after, still depressed. Ms. Eadie began to fall asleep again when she saw movement at her door. Five dark, shadowy creatures came into the room and attempted to attack her, but a doom of light surrounded her, keeping them away. Ms. Eadie's three monks returned and told her they were demons come to kill her for choosing to return to her body. However, the doom of light would always protect her.

The creatures returned later in the night. Ms. Eadie called her husband, who quickly came to her side. Joe could not see the creatures, but he stood by her side. Finally, the demons left and were replaced by a little girl of two or three who seemed attracted to Joe. The little girl stood on his foot in a ballerina pose and reached into his trouser pocket. Ms. Eadie asked Joe if he could see the girl, but he could not. Ms. Eadie then told Joe of some of her experience, but not all. Talking seemed to dilute the experience and this was something Ms. Eadie did not want.

The tone of the book has shifted once more. Ms. Eadie is afraid and unhappy and that comes out clearly in her reaction to her body. The three monks return, and Ms. Eadie finds some comfort from them, but when the demons show up, Ms. Eadie has trouble taking comfort from anything. The demons seem to symbolize all that is evil in the world as Ms. Eadie's spirit world, and the three monks represent all the good. Ms. Eadie's perspective here seems to be a warning, to show her readers that both good and evil do exist in this world, but good will always protect you, as symbolized by the doom of light.

Chapter 19, My Recovery

Chapter 19, My Recovery Summary and Analysis

Over the next few years, Ms. Eadie sank into a deep depression. Life on Earth was difficult with the knowledge Ms. Eadie now had. However, Ms. Eadie soon pulled herself out of the depression in order to spend time with her family. Five years after this near death experience, Ms. Eadie decided to see the doctor who had done the surgery in order to ask him what had happened that night, since she was never told what might have happened.

The doctor listened to Ms. Eadie speak for the better part of an hour even though his waiting room was packed with patients. The doctor began to cry even as he told her what her medical file said about the events of that night. Ms. Eadie had hemorrhaged on the operating table, and the bleeding had begun again during the night. The nurses were not aware of this fact due to it occurring at shift change, and Ms. Eadie was left alone for a short time. Ms. Eadie asked the doctor why he was crying, and he told her that he had lost a family member recently, and her story gave him hope.

This chapter is a large part of the theme of near death experience. It was never clear if Ms. Eadie had died the night of her surgery until this chapter. Now the reader knows for sure that Ms. Eadie did experience clinical death as a result of her surgery and that she was more than likely not just dreaming during her experience. This chapter also changes the tone again as Ms. Eadie tells the reader how the doctor took hope from her experience. This gives a deeper meaning to her experience and allows the reader to also draw hope from it.



Chapter 20, My Special Angel

Chapter 20, My Special Angel Summary and Analysis

A year after the visit to the doctor, Ms. Eadie got a phone call from her sister. A couple of alcoholics were expecting a child. As one child had already been taken from there home, an adoptive family was being sought for this one as well, but they were having difficulties due to the fact that the baby was Native American, and they wanted a Native American family to take her. Ms. Eadie, and her family agreed to take the child.

The baby was with Ms. Eadie and her family for ten months. The baby was then adopted and taken to another state. Ms. Eadie missed the baby desperately and wanted her returned, something she prayed for often. Finally, realizing the baby would not be returned, after three months Ms. Eadie's prayer turned to one of hope for the new family, hoping they would make the baby happy. That night a spirit came to Ms. Eadie and told her to expect a phone call in which a person would say they had good news and bad news. Then the baby would be returned. Ms. Eadie received this phone call two weeks later.

The baby had missed Ms. Eadie so much that she cried constantly. The new parents could not take this crying and beat the baby before abandoning her in a hospital. The baby was to be returned to Ms. Eadie and her family. Ms. Eadie traveled with the case worked and rescued her baby from strangers. The family then applied for adoption and changed the baby's name to Betty Jean. When Betty Jean was two she went to Joe one afternoon and balanced in a ballerina pose on his toe and reached into his trouser pocket. Ms. Eadie recognized the pose as that of the little spirit in her hospital room and finally realized that this spirit was the same as the special woman spirit she had seen during her time in the spirit world.

Ms. Eadie's purpose in this chapter is to show the reader how her experiences affected her over all life. Ms. Eadie was given a child who needed her with a spirit inside of her that was a woman Ms. Eadie met in the spirit world and had sensed was a kind and special woman. This is like a message that we all have a mission on Earth, that everything is ordained including what happened to Ms. Eadie and that nothing should be taken for granted. This not only touches on the theme of religion where these messages are taught on a daily basis, but on the theme of family. It is family that brought Ms. Eadie out of her depression, and it is family that made her life whole once more.



Characters

Betty Eadie

Joe

Betty Jean

The Spirit of Jesus

The Three Monks

Betty's Spiritual Guides

The Council of Men

Joe and Betty's Children

Joyce

The Demons



Objects/Places

The Hospital

Betty was in the hospital to have surgery when she had her second, deeply detailed near death experience.

Boarding School

Betty and the majority of her ten brothers and sisters attended Catholic boarding school after their parent's divorce. This is where Betty learned to fear Jesus and God.

The Tunnel

The tunnel was a dark place Betty traveled through, where she sensed other souls stopping or fighting their path toward Jesus.

The Light

Betty saw that all spirits are surrounded by a light that reflects the spirit's feelings and devotion to God. Betty moved into the light surrounding Jesus and felt that she could communicate with him simply through the mixing of their lights.

The Laws

While speaking to Jesus, Betty learned the laws that govern all spirits.

The Looms

While in the spirit world, Betty visited a room in which spirits used ancient looms to create unique cloth, which the spirits could wear during their time in the spirit world.

The Library

In the spirit world, Betty found a library in which she only had to stand in order to gain all the knowledge it contained.



The Garden

Betty visited a garden in the spirit world in which all the plants had intelligence and could respond to God's will.

Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas

Betty's husband Joe was in the Air Force, and they were stationed at Randolph Air Force Base for four years after their marriage. Two of their children were born there.

SIDS

Betty's fourth child, a daughter, died of SIDS.



Themes

Near Death Experiences

Since the beginning of time there has been talk of near death experiences, of seeing a bright light and moving through a tunnel, events that take place when a person has been declared clinically dead and then is returned to life through medical intervention with stories regarding events experienced during this time of death. Many of these experiences have been dismissed by experts as a misfiring of the brain during the crisis that has led to clinical death or of simple imaginings experienced in moments of severe stress. However, there are those who believe in these experiences and many more who want to believe. Everyone wants to think there is life beyond this one. This need to believe creates a debate regarding near death experiences that is often heated and passionately unrelenting. The theme in regards to this book does not include this debate, however. It is restricted to Ms. Eadie's experiences only.

Ms. Eadie has written a book about her experiences during her own clinical death after surgery. Ms. Eadie expresses her experience in terms of religion, including in her description a conversation with Jesus, who answered for her many of the questions that have bothered her since childhood experience taught her to fear God. Ms. Eadie expresses her opinion that there are certain rules one must live by in order to further the education of their spirit and that this is the purpose of life on Earth. Ms. Eadie tells her readers that her experience taught her that all spirits were present at the beginning of Earth and that the spirits not only chose to come to live on Earth in their mortal bodies, but they also have a hand in choosing the difficulties their human forms will face through the course of their experiences on Earth. While on Earth, the spirits must follow certain laws in order to complete their missions and return to the spirit world and the bosom of Jesus. Ms. Eadie also expresses the idea that many spirits become corrupted by their experiences on Earth and fail to complete their mission in order to return to their rightful place in the spirit world. These spirits linger on Earth or within the dark tunnel through which all spirits must travel to reach Jesus and the spirit world.

Ms. Eadie never calls the spirit world Heaven, nor does she claim to meet God Himself. Ms. Eadie does see and interact with angels, as well as visits many other worlds in which she believes spirits live, though she does not remember the specific worlds or the spirits who live among them. Ms. Eadie's memory regarding her experience is not perfect. In fact, many of the events she experienced are missing from her memory. This fact is open to interpretation for both believers, and those who question Ms. Eadie's experience. Ms. Eadie believes she did experience these events that are described with her book, and this is what the theme of near death experience is based on.



Religious Beliefs

Ms. Eadie was the daughter of an Indian woman and a white man. Indians do not traditionally believe in organized religion or in the Christian God. However, Ms. Eadie was sent to a Catholic boarding school as a child. In this school, Ms. Eadie was taught to fear God and that God and Jesus are one in the same. These teachings confused Ms. Eadie as she grew older and had experiences with other religions that taught opposite beliefs. Like a lot of people, Ms. Eadie wanted to believe in God and confessed that she often prayed to God in a demanding, threatening sort of way. However, she never found a religion she could feel comfortable in.

When Ms. Eadie was four, she suffered a severe bout of pneumonia that caused her to experience clinical death for a few minutes, an experience that she could still remember. During this death, a bearded man came to Ms. Eadie and held her in his arms. This experience was confusing to her, and Ms. Eadie never connected it with any religious connotations. When she became an adult and married Joe, Ms. Eadie attempted to join a church, but she could not find a church that fit her needs. Therefore, though a believer in God, Ms. Eadie was not an avid church member when she entered the hospital for her surgery in 1973.

Shortly after leaving her body during her second near death experience, Ms. Eadie traveled through a dark tunnel and found herself face to face with a bearded figure she believed to be Jesus. Ms. Eadie was wrapped in this man's light, feeling his love for her and finding answers to questions she has always wanted answered. Among them is the question why there are so many religions on Earth. Jesus told her that the different religions offer different levels of belief for each of the souls on Earth, providing each with exactly what they need when they need it. Ms. Eadie was comforted by the answers she found in this experience and took them with her when she returned to Earth and her physical body. Ms. Eadie incorporated all this knowledge into her life since her return and continued her life with a bigger sense of purpose and with the freedom to find a religion that fit her emotional needs.

Family

Family is an important theme in this book. Ms. Eadie honestly admits that her broken family as a child led her to search for a more stable, more complete family as an adult. Ms. Eadie married the first man she fell in love, married at fifteen and had four children in quick succession. However, this marriage ended. Ms. Eadie, a woman who felt as though she had never had a family, that she was neglected and passed from place to place without stability, wanted a family for herself and now for her three surviving children. When Ms. Eadie met Joe, she felt as though she had found the right man and married him as quickly as he was willing. However, Ms. Eadie was mature enough by then to realize how much work marriage can be and has worked hard at keeping her marriage together.



Ms. Eadie was the mother of seven children when she entered the hospital the night before her surgery. When she died the next evening, Ms. Eadie's first thoughts were of her husband and children. Ms. Eadie traveled to her home and watched her six living children prepare for bed, given a glimpse into their futures somehow as she watched them. Ms. Eadie knew by this glimpse into their futures that her children would be okay without her and this knowledge allowed her to continue her journey through the tunnel and into the spirit world. Ms. Eadie did not want to leave the spirit world when her time there was up and this was the first time in telling of her story that Ms. Eadie does not express her concern for her children or her husband, nor does she worry about leaving them behind after her death. However, Jesus encouraged her to go back, and Ms. Eadie, more than six years after her experience, discovered part of the reason why she had to return. It was her destiny to adopt a beautiful little girl, whose spirit she met while in the spirit world. This addition to her family, an eighth child, only strengthened Ms. Eadie's belief in family and sense of security that she fought long and hard to find.

Style

Perspective

This book is an autobiographical account of actual events that happened to Betty Eadie, the author. Betty went into the hospital in 1973 to have surgery and, during the course of serious complications resulting from the surgery, Betty had an experience in which she believed she died and went into a spirit world where Jesus spoke with her and shared many truths with her.

Betty grew up in a large family that fractured when she was only four. Betty's parents divorced, and she and her brothers and sister were sent to boarding school while their parents struggled with the logistics of their separation. Betty was young and impressionable during this time. Through the teachings of the Catholic nuns at this school, Betty learned to fear God, and she learned an interpretation of religion that confused and upset her for many years. It was also during this time that Betty had her first near death experience during a bout with pneumonia. All Betty remembered of this experience was being held in the arms of a bearded man.

Betty later moved in with her father and then with her mother. However, Betty never had the benefit of feeling as though she were part of a family, so she decided to find one on her own. Betty married at fifteen and had four children in quick succession, losing one to SIDS. This marriage did not last and Betty was left to raise three children on her own. When Betty met Joe, she thought she had found the answer to all her prayers. The only thing missing from her life was religion, but Betty and Joe could not find a religion that met their spiritual needs.

While in the hospital to undergo a hysterectomy, Betty suffered a hemorrhage that caused her to be clinically dead for several minutes. During this time Betty believed she left her body and went into the spirit world where not only did she meet and speak with Jesus, but she was given a tour of the entire spirit world and introduced to the laws and works of this world. Betty did not retain full memory of these experiences, but the memories she did bring back with her changed the way she looked at everything in the physical world. When Betty first settled back in the physical world after her near death experience, she was reluctant to tell anyone what happened. Betty was depressed by her physical being and haunted by her memories. However, Betty wanted to share in her family's lives and slowly came out of her depression.

The decision to write this book was a hard one for Betty and her family. However, Betty strongly believed in her experience and all she learned while in the spirit world. In fact, Betty believed at times the spirits continued to come and contact her. This experience deeply strengthened Betty's belief in God and Jesus and her understanding of them, and religion, in general. This is the message Betty wanted to share with the world, and the message that screams out loudly through every page of her fascinating memoir.



Tone

The tone of this book is subjective. The experiences in which Ms. Eadie experienced and relates in the book are emotional and deeply personal. Not only does this book offer autobiographical information regarding Ms. Eadie's childhood, but it also includes an in depth look at her near death experience, an experience that many may dismiss as a dream experienced during a stressful time or simple imagination stemming from her childhood experiences. Ms. Eadie does not attempt to shy away from the truth of what she believed happened to her that night and does not make excuses or try to explain the events in any way except through the explanations that were offered to her by the spirits she met on her travels that night. Ms. Eadie then continued her memoir to show the reader how the events of that night changed her life, including the addition to her family of a child whose spirit Ms. Eadie believed she met the night she died briefly.

This tone makes it difficult for a reader to find fault within Ms. Eadie's story. The honesty and openness of the book, as well as the simple language and first person point of view, gives the book a feeling of having a conversation with a friend or relative who is bearing a deep secret for the first time in years. The reader can feel Ms. Eadie's deep belief in her experiences, and the change that it has brought to her life. Whether the reader believes in a spiritual world and in God does not matter when reading this book. Ms. Eadie does not try to influence her reader's beliefs or to encourage a specific religion. Ms. Eadie simply attempted to share an experience and that sense of sharing comes through to the reader in the tone of the book.

Structure

The book is divided into twenty chapters, each bearing a descriptive title that addresses some place or event that takes place within the pages of the novel. The chapters are all very short, some fewer than two or three pages, and each chapter only covers a specific event as addressed by the title. The book is written in the first person point of view with the entire book taking place through the eyes of the author, Betty Eadie.

The entire book is written in exposition with very little dialogue, usually only a sentence or two in which the author has spoken to a spirit or a spirit has attempted to calm her. Ms. Eadie does not attempt to novelize her story by writing it as an author might write a popular novel. However, Ms. Eadie's book has the feel of a literary novel, a novel that is more interested in the descriptions and morals than scenes and dialogue. This keeps Ms. Eadie's book simple and easy to read rather than stiff, like a research filled tome of a non-fiction book.

Ms. Eadie tells her story in a linear manner, beginning the night she is admitted to the hospital. There are flashbacks within the book in which Ms. Eadie shows herself remembering her childhood, and the early years of her marriage while waiting for sleep the night before her surgery. This technique, again, gives the book the feel of a novel without truly novelizing it in such a way that the facts and the honesty are lost. The overall structure of the book makes it easy to read and entertaining.



Quotes

"Something was wrong. My husband, Joe, had left my hospital room only a few minutes before, but already a foreboding feeling was enveloping me." Chapter 1, The First Night, pg. 1

"I had always thought that my husband and children would eventually replace the family I had missed in my childhood. I had promised myself that when I married and began my own family that they would be my prime interest and my greatest refuge."

Chapter 2, The Night Deepens, pg. 14

"My doctor was standing by me, saying that the surgery had been a success and that I should be feeling fine shortly." Chapter 3, The Second Day, pg. 26

"Then I felt a surge of energy. It was almost as if I felt a pop or release inside me, and my spirit was suddenly drawn out through my chest and pulled upward, as if by a giant magnet. My first impression was that I was free." Chapter 4, My Death, pg. 29

"I felt as if I had been swallowed up by an enormous tornado. I could see nothing but the intense, almost tangible darkness. The darkness was more than a lack of light; it was a dense blackness unlike anything I had known before." Chapter 5, The Tunnel, pgs. 37-38

"There was no questioning who he was. I knew that he was my Savior, and friend, and God. He was Jesus Christ, who had always loved me, even when I thought he hated me. He was life itself, love itself, and his love gave me a fullness of joy, even to overflowing."

Chapter 6, Embraced by the Light, pg. 42

"My whole spirit wanted to shout for joy as these truths came to me. I understood them, and Jesus knew that I was comprehending all that he showed me." Chapter 7, The Laws, pg. 57

"We understood that memories would be contained in the cells of our new bodies. This was an idea that was completely new to me. I learned that all thoughts and experiences in our lives are recorded in our subconscious minds. They are also recorded in our cells, so that not only is each cell imprinted with a genetic coding, it is also imprinted with every experience we have ever had." Chapter 13, Selecting a Body, pg. 93

"I saw many lights shooting up from the earth like beacons. Some were very broad and charged into heaven like broad laser beams. Others resembled the illumination of small pen lights, and some were mere sparks. I was surprised as I was told that these beams of power were the prayers of people on earth." Chapter 15, Prayer, pg. 103



"I asked the doctor why he was crying, and he said that his tears were tears of happiness. He had recently lost a loved one and found hope in my story." Chapter 19, My Recovery, pg. 134

"More experiences have come to me since November 18, 1973, but I am reluctant to share them here; it took nineteen years and countless proddings to get me to share the experiences in this book. Everything has its time; for this book, the time is now."

Chapter 20, My Special Angel, pg. 147

"It is simply a matter of following the Savior's message which he most clearly expressed to me: 'Above all else, love one another.'

I will continue to try." Chapter 20, My Special Angel, pg. 147



Topics for Discussion

Discuss near death experiences. What is a near death experience? Have you ever heard one, as described? Do you believe they are real, or do you believe it is the result of imagination or misfiring brain cells? Why?

Discuss religion. Does God or Jesus feature prominently in all near death experiences? Why or why not? Do you think you have to believe in God to have a near death experience? Do only religious people see God? Why?

Discuss death. What do you think happens when a person dies? Do you believe in spirits? Do you believe in angels? Do you believe the spirit continues after death? Why or why not? Discuss reincarnation. Do you believe in reincarnation? How does reincarnation effect the stories of near death experiences in your opinion?

Do you believe Betty Eadie really died and went to a spirit world and talked to Jesus? Why or why not? If she did not leave her body, why do you think Ms. Eadie has such a strong memory of these things? What about the demons? Do you think Ms. Eadie really saw demons?

Do you believe the laws that Ms. Eadie was told? How do these laws effect our everyday lives? Are these laws possible to follow? How much about these laws do you think Ms. Eadie's mortal understanding influenced?

Discuss the child spirit. Why did Ms. Eadie see a child spirit in her hospital room, when she had not seen a child spirit the whole time she was in the spirit world? Do you think this was a message for Ms. Eadie? If you do not believe this, how do you explain the coincidence of Ms. Eadie seeing Betty Jean perform the same movement she had seen the spirit child perform?

Discuss the tone of the book. Do you think the book would have better or worse if written in a more clinical tone? Do you think the first person narrative was appropriate to this book? Was the book too informal? Too formal? How would the book be different if it had been written in the third person?