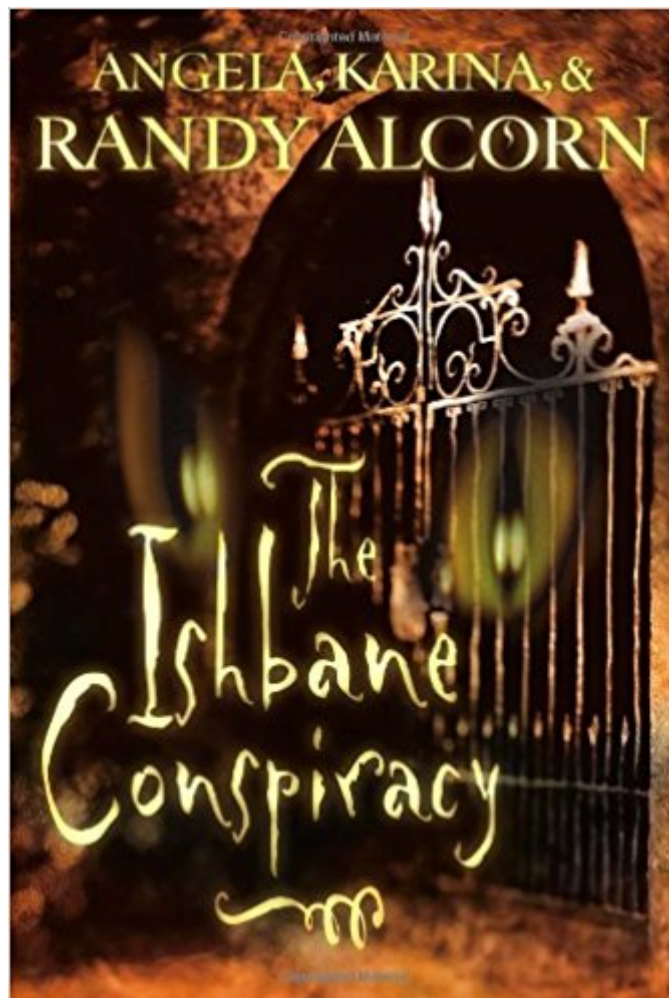


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# The Ishbane Conspiracy



## Synopsis

Jillian is picture-perfect on the outside, but terrified of getting hurt on the inside. Brittany is a tough girl who trusts almost no one. Ian is a successful athlete who dabbles in the occult. And Rob is a former gang-banger who struggles with guilt, pain, and a newfound faith in God. These four college students will face the ultimate battle between good and evil in a single year. As spiritual warfare rages around them, a dramatic demonic correspondence takes place. Readers can eavesdrop on the enemy, and learn to stave off their own defeat, by reading *The Ishbane Conspiracy*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Randy Alcorn is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries. His books include the bestsellers *The Treasure Principle*, *Deadline*, *Dominion*, *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*, and *The Ishbane Conspiracy*. He has written seven other nonfiction books. Randy and his wife, Nanci, live in Gresham, Oregon, and have two grown daughters, Karina and Angela.

I am a big fan of Randy Alcorn and love all of his work. "The Ishbane Conspiracy" refers to the plotting of the devil and his minions to undermine God. There are two intertwined storylines in the book. First, a group of pre college teens face the struggles of everyday secular living. The second story line is a fascinating discussion between the demons assigned to each teen. Here are a few examples of the demons discussing how to bring down Christianity: "Our cultural destruction committee continues its work to redefine the family. We've taken both

parents out of the home by convincing the most wealthy people that they must have two incomes. We've made single parenting normal. We've created latchkey children who have been baby-sat by television and the Internet. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. We've put an end to the sacredness of family dinner together, using business and telephone and television to pull them away from the table and family conversation. We've given a whole new meaning to "family planning." We've even created scorn for "family values." Pg. 81 "Picture the professor teaching in this class. He congratulates himself on debunking the ridiculous fantasies of religious fanatics. Of course, his own position is imminently credible-in the beginning there was nothing, and then the nothing exploded into gigantic pieces we call stars and planets, and from these self-generated inanimate objects came plants, and from the plants came animals, and from animals came people, and from people came Saran Wrap and bug zappers and bungee cords. Presto change alakazam, there you have it, the history of the cosmos." Pg. 108 I found the teen story line to be predictable and a tad slow. I found the demon story line to be fascinating, creative and applicable to today. Randy, and his crew, have written a Christian novel explaining what is wrong with our culture today. The devil plays himself. Interesting and provocative.

Loved this book! If you like C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters* you will enjoy this book and the first one, *Lord Foulgrin*. I always learn something from Randy's books, fiction or non-fiction. Excellent read, especially if you are interested in how the enemy wants to trip you up and cheat you out of life.

As a Christian man, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. My girlfriend and soon to be fiancée recommended it and I loved 97% of it. It was artfully written and has some beautifully eloquent passages describing the struggles of Christian young adults. As other reviewers have suggested, Lewis would smile with Alcorn's take on the *Screwtape Letters*. I do have one criticism, however, and that is the insinuations of "non-Christian" beliefs and behavior throughout the novel. This is the 3% I DID not enjoy one bit. One insinuation is that heavy metal should be avoided and is a creation of demons. As a metal head, I am very much offended by this, and would invite my Christian brothers and sisters to not judge heavy metal; there are a great many bands that worship Jesus directly through metal music. I agree with Alcorn's implicit suggestion that music, especially hard rock and heavy metal, should be monitored and thought about, but to dismiss it as satanic is very judgmental and I believe hurts his Christian message. Another, and perhaps what drove me to write this review,

is his insinuation that accepting the the theory of evolution means you are not a Christian. This is most clearly stated on page 198, where Prince Ishbane states "While affirming a belief in the forbidden book [i.e. the Bible], Jillian carries over her residual antitheistic beliefs about the world's origins. She doesn't realize that she cannot represent the Enemy [i.e. Jesus] effectively while still embracing two starkly contradictory worldviews." Reading that passage as a scientist and medical student is frankly offensive and narrow minded. I am a Christian man. I believe Jesus was God, the Bible is the word of God, and He rose again from the dead. I ACCEPT that evolution is the most compelling scientific theory for how species change over time. Evolution, as Alcorns clearly imply, IS NOT a belief system, though many atheists believe it to be so (I was an atheist for many years, so I speak from experience). Humans can be God's creations and the Bible can gel WITH the theory of evolution; I will not even go on to write why this is so. Additionally, the Alcorn's simply spit in the face of scientific evidence regarding evolutionary theory. I will give one particularly ridiculous example on page 197 - "...They'll cheerfully overlook such details as the fossil record's lack of transitional forms. The billions of missing links that should be there but aren't...They gladly embrace any illogic in exchange for its fringe benefits." To begin, again, the Alcorns imply evolution is a belief system diametrically opposed to Christianity, WHICH IT IS NOT! It is a scientific theory - nothing more, nothing less. Others may elevate it to a belief system, but that doesn't discredit the theory, it merely shows the weakness of the people who misinterpret it (like many Christian brothers and sisters throughout the ages that have misinterpreted the Bible that have used it to justify all sorts of evil). In addition, the Alcorns are just plain ignorant about evolutionary theory. First, the fossil record we have discovered is RICH with transitional forms in every animal kingdom. That is one of THE KEY REASONS why EVOLUTION is the OVERWHELMINGLY accepted theory of change among species in the scientific world. The Alcorn's, being non-scientists, justifiably fail to understand the nuances of what a transitional form is and jump to the conclusion that it is a "missing link" and that they must be extant in order to be "real." I do not have the space nor inclination to explain in detail why their statements are simply false, but I would recommend the family read any introductory biology text on macroevolution or microevolution in circulation to find the answer. Additionally, it would behoove the family to learn about these subjects BEFORE making such sweeping judgments about them and making clear suggestions to their intended young and impressionable audience that evolution is evil and anti-Christian. This does a major disservice to their message and taints what is otherwise quite an excellent novel. In summary, the Ishbane Conspiracy is an excellent novel with a good dose of typical Christian narrow-mindedness. As a fellow Christian, it sits okay with me. but reader beware before picking up this text.

I'll be honest, I didn't really care for the book. Perhaps it is my age (I'm older). A book should keep your attention and even if not a page-turner make you want to read it. This did not - at least not for me. Also, the book's premise is stolen from C.S. LEWIS (The Screwtape Letters). I guess it's OK to steal an idea from other authors (many books have) but it bothered me. Now, that I said the above let me say that I do think the book has value. I can see it used in a youth group setting to start dialogue. I believe it would be a great teaching tool/conversation starter. And just because I didn't find the story line captivating doesn't mean you won't.

this book is amazing and often give it as a gift

This book is at the same time thrilling, scary in parts, tear-inducing, encouraging, instructive and timeless. It is must reading for every Christian teenager and his or her parents. In fact, if they can read it together, even better. This book goes straight to the heart of issues with which teenagers (Christian or not) are daily struggling, giving a glimpse--however fictional it may be--into the subject of spiritual warfare in a way which is extremely helpful. Praying fervently and consistently for kids and their families is at the core of this excellent book's message.

The book is good but the previous owner wrote many comments throughout the entire book. The comments were distracting and messy. I will not purchase another book if there is writing in it.

The plot is a little thin in spots, but I really appreciate the reminders about satan's tactics. It is too easy to become complacent and forget to be on guard.

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