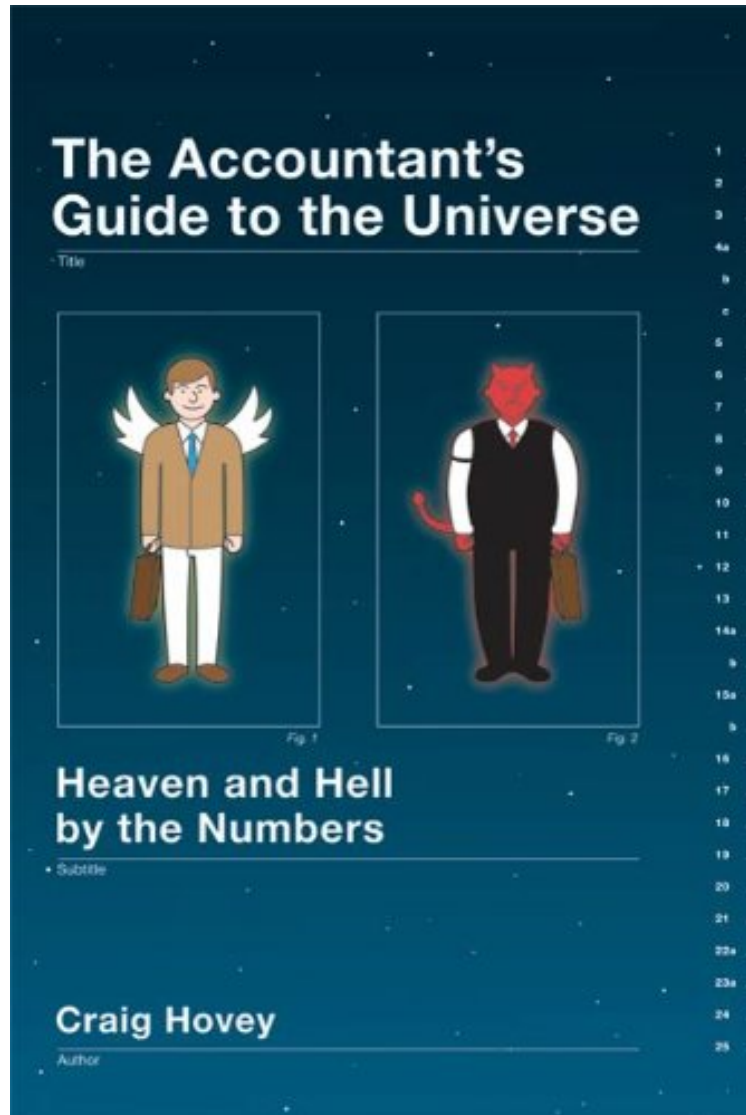


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The Accountant's Guide to the Universe: Heaven and Hell by the Numbers

Craig Hovey

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Craig Hovey : The Accountant's Guide to the Universe: Heaven and Hell by the Numbers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Accountant's Guide to the Universe: Heaven and Hell by the Numbers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Who knew... accounting humorBy J. K. WiggillWhen I first saw the title of this book I knew I had to get two copies. One for me and one for my friend who is a CPA. Now he's not the typical CPA he actually has a sense of humor and he loved it. He called me to tell me more funny stories from his

lifetime full of accounting humor. Anyway, *The Accountants Guide to the Universe* is an easy read and it has a funny premise that is well developed throughout the story. It's especially great if you know an accountant, even if he is too boring to read the book. Makes it even funnier. Enjoy! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. quick, mildly entertaining read

By Nelson's Pillar I found the book to be mildly entertaining, but maybe not worth reading just for the story. However, after having struggled to understand the basics (mainly the conventions used) of accounting for many years (including repeated efforts of my father, a CPA), this book managed to convey the basics for me in a few short pages (pp. 31-57 did it for me). Other books lost me through sheer boredom, or excruciating, pedagogically unnecessary detail. I reread some sections of other books, and a light bulb went off (well, flickered maybe). I gave it four stars because of this concise enlightenment. There were two glaring mistakes in the book that confused me until I realized they were mistakes: (1) The Accumulated Depreciation (building) ledger account (p. 54) should be a credit entry instead of a debit entry, and, more glaring, (2) the Net Income (p. 56) should read \$50,900 not \$49,900. The latter mistake really threw me until it occurred to me to check the arithmetic. Bad mistake for an accounting book!

They said it couldn't be done, but *The Accountant's Guide to the Universe* is the first entertaining book on accounting written for a general audience. The book opens with a wild premise: Heaven and Hell have been outsourced to a giant company in a distant galaxy and they are now in charge of determining who goes where after death. The entire universe is scoured for an objective system that can be adapted to the task, and it is found, in the form of accounting, in the least civilized backwater of the universe, Earth! The book is also a morality tale. It demonstrates how financial scandals (a la Bernie Madoff and many others) can be pulled off with "creative accounting," and how much a person adds or subtracts from the universe by their actions. Written for anybody who has taken an accounting class, practices it for a living, or is simply interested in seeing how a system designed to record finances can also be used to judge the entire universe will be enlightened by *The Accountant's Guide to the Universe*.

From Booklist Hovey, academic and economic theorist, presents a clever morality tale that uses accounting as an objective system to determine if an individual after death merits Heaven or Hell. In addition to offering instructions on rudimentary accounting, the author observes that human behavior is not necessarily rational for various reasons, including lack of time and maturity, and the desired quality of "fair play" cannot be assumed and must be controlled with rules and negative consequences. Buried within this fable about accounting, the language of commerce, is a fascinating description of "creative accounting," which shows through a series of events and accounting practices how jailed investor Bernard Madoff, and unfortunately many others, could carry out financial fraud. This lighthearted instruction manual on accounting is not only witty in its application to the hereafter, but also has valuable perspective on financial rules and practices that will entertain and educate people within and outside the accounting industry. It is an excellent book. --Mary Whaley

About the Author CRAIG HOVEY teaches economics at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York.