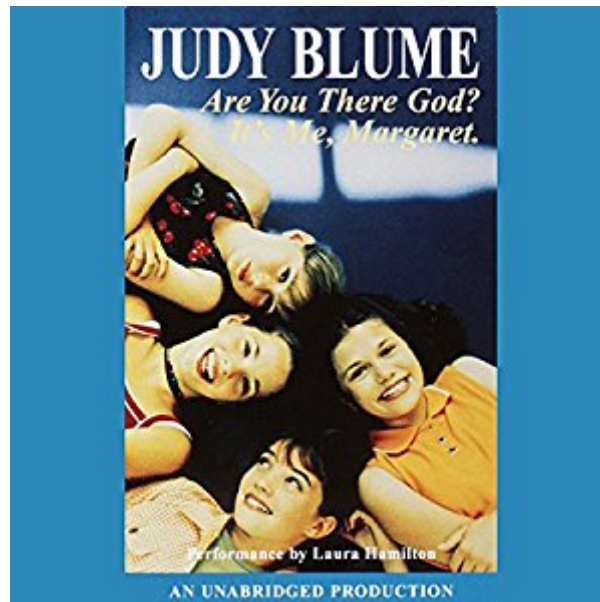


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# Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret



## Synopsis

Life isn't easy for Margaret. She's moved away from her childhood home, she's starting a new school, finding new friends - and she's convinced she's not normal. For a start she hasn't got a clue whether she wants to be Jewish like her father or Christian like her mother. Everyone else seems really sure of who they are. And, worst of all, she's a 'late developer'. She just knows that all her friends are going to need a bra before she does. It's too embarrassing to talk to her parents about these things. So she talks to God instead - and waits for an answer ...Judy Blume has written some of the best books of our time about real-life issues - family stress and pressures, what happens when your parents divorce, the problems of growing up and sexual awakening, bereavement - with insight, sensitivity and honesty. The response of readers all around the world continues to make her one of the best-loved writers ever published. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Judy Blume's writings were often deemed controversial. Oddly enough, Margaret's concerns placed this book, in the year 1970, under that label. Whether it be because of sex talk, periods, or Playboy references, this is a book that all preteens ought to read. Why? Margaret is a regular girl dealing with normal adolescent troubles. She's moved to New Jersey, she suspects, because her parents wanted to distance herself from her grandmother, who paid for Margaret's private school tuition, knit her cute little sweaters, and doted on her in a big way. Now, Margaret will go to public school. You can already see the transition to a new neighborhood won't be all too rough - she and Nancy

Wheeler become fast friends and find they will be in the same sixth grade class. She, along with Nancy, Gretchen Potter and Janie Loomis, start the Four Preteen Sensations. Blume frankly addresses puberty, as well as religion. I like the fact that Margaret feels she can talk to God without actually belonging to any particular organized religion. She is technically half Catholic and half Jewish and a pivotal part of the book is her search to find which religion is right for her. She visits a synagogue and a church, yet does not feel God in either place. This exploration of faith is actually something I have seen quite a few younger kids go through today in society - it really is no different from 1970! Margaret constantly wants her period. Why? I don't know. It will make her feel more grown-up, more womanly, I guess. Yes, I know, I know, I just answered my own question! :) Margaret also wants the body of a woman. She and her friends gossip about Laura Danker, a buxom sixth grader with a bad reputation, seemingly only because of her figure.

When I decided in December to review favorite books, I tried to choose ones that were lesser known. And yet I've picked the book that launched Judy Blume's career: *Are You There God? It's Margaret*. You see, among all of her books, it's the book one that had the greatest impact on me. In fifth grade, I received a copy of the aforementioned book from my dad. I read it and loved it immediately. Sometime later, when in the bathroom, I looked down at my underpants. The words of Margaret immediately came to mind: "Then I looked down at my underpants and couldn't believe it. There was blood on them." I ran to find my dad, and stammered on and on about Margaret. Eventually, I got to the point, or maybe my dad just figured it out. At any rate, we called my aunts and sought their recommendations for sanitary pads. So you see, Margaret is the one who taught me about periods. Ironically, Margaret (among others, like Vikki Austin) also helped me with my adolescent faith. For anyone who knows the book and who knows me, this might seem like an odd thing to say for several reasons. First, Margaret's parents had no faith, whereas my dad is a conservative Christian. Second, thanks to a school project, Margaret decides to explore the faith of her two sets of grandparents: Christianity and Judaism. In contrast, I attended a Pentecostal school and accepted its beliefs. At some point, though, Margaret is disappointed by God. Really, it's her grandparents who hurt her and a friend who betrays her. But she blames God. When the biggest and best moment of her life occurs, however, Margaret realizes just how important God is to her. She may have been a fictional character, but reading about her struggles and her return to God helped me feel more confident in my faith.

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