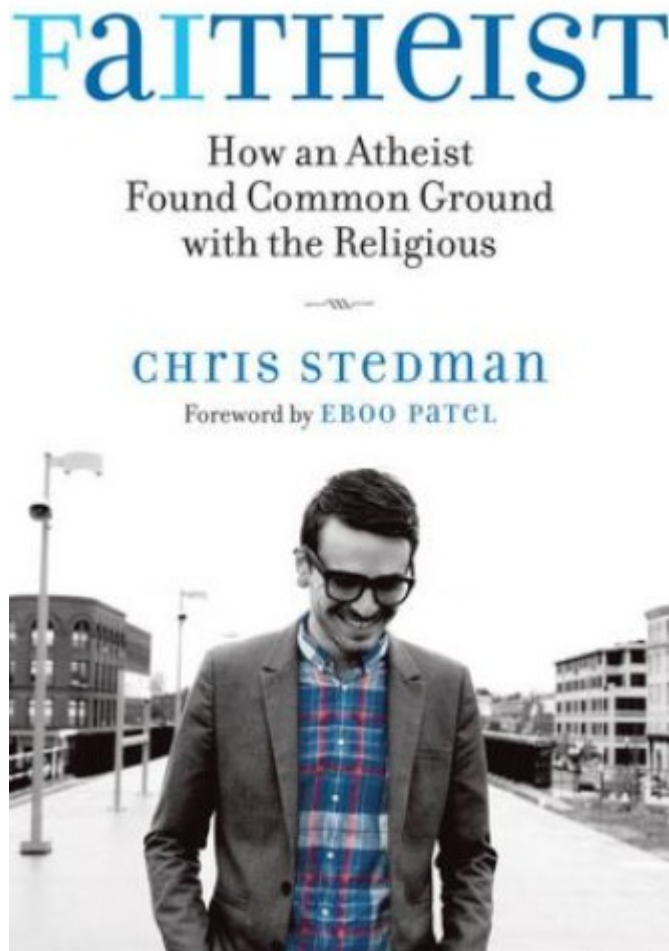


*Faitheist*, by Chris Stedman

Books in the [November 14, 2012](#) issue

## In Review



## Faitheist

By Chris Stedman  
Beacon

Stedman, the assistant humanist chaplain at Harvard, grew up in a secular family. He had a conversion experience in an evangelical setting, but this foundered when he came out as gay. A sojourn with the Lutherans led to attendance at Augsburg Col-

lege, where Stedman lost his faith while a religion major. In time he realized that he didn't belong to the militant antireligious crowd. "Faitheist" was a label put on him by other atheists who were offended by the fact that he didn't find his identity in being against religion. He's the anti-Christopher Hitchens, and though he lacks the intellectual and literary powers of Hitchens, his story needs to be heard and engaged.