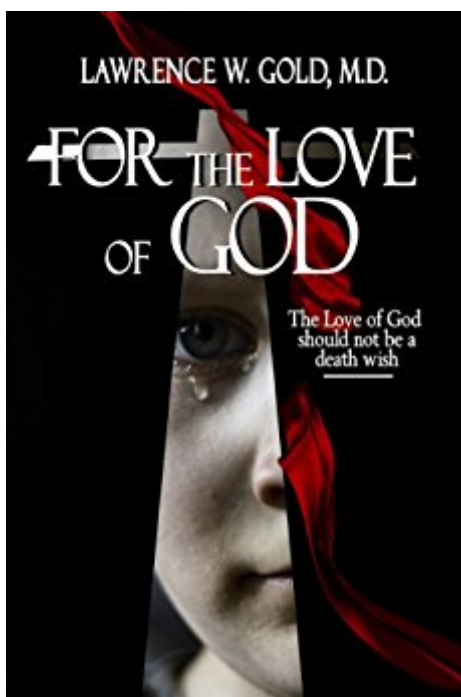


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For The Love Of God: Children Dying For God



Synopsis

The plot for this book is not only superb, it is a 10 star work in that we have more than one mystery, and all of it is woven together so well, we never lose track. The characters are totally believable and so well written that I can relate to them all. This book grabs your attention and keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout. If you enjoy medical drama, you'll love *For the Love of God*, a novel that accurately depicts what happens when a cult denies sick children lifesaving medical care. While this is fiction, the novel shows practices that continue to this day. Do not misconstrue this novel as anti-religious...it's against those who would sacrifice innocent children based on their own beliefs. An incidental and shocking discovery of a cave with tiny unmarked graves shatters the peace of Exton, a small town in upstate N.Y. More horrifying is the forensic analysis that reveals that these young children died needlessly as the result of neglect and abuse at the hands of a religious fundamentalist cult that disavows medical care. Fundamentalists and their political action groups come to the defense of the cult and the parents of the dead children setting the stage for the final courtroom clash to come. The sheriff, an investigative reporter, the local coroner and two forensic experts from Albany develop the case. When the county DA, a fundamentalist, resists vigorous prosecution, the Governor of New York intervenes and appoints Rosemary and Calvin Brandt to represent the State and speak for the dead children. These controversial attorneys and former fundamentalists have devoted their lives to the protection of children. The final courtroom clash sets freedom of religion against the State's responsibility to protect innocent children.

Book Information

File Size: 761 KB

Print Length: 373 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1468141996

Publisher: Grass Valley Publishing (December 30, 2013)

Publication Date: December 30, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006R7I8F4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #260,579 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #64

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inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Cults #816

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Customer Reviews

Lawrence W. Gold, MD is a physician/author who takes risks with his books: his previous two books - FIRST, DO NO HARM and NO CURE FOR MURDER - are stories that revealed some rather grim aspects of the medical profession. Now in his third novel - FOR THE LOVE OF GOD - he ventures into even more controversial territory. Gold has retired from medicine (he was a Nephrologist, having served as a Battalion Surgeon in Vietnam at the same time as this reviewer) and it is understandable that he wishes to use his patently obvious skills as a writer as his post-medical career. One wonders why he continues to use the MD after his name in this successful second career, but perhaps the intent is to add validity to his writing. Reading FOR THE LOVE OF GOD during this particular time when the political campaigns are stridently focusing on fundamental evangelical conservative religious groups as the target for gaining support of the nomination of certain candidates for the running lead for Presidential election is even more atmospheric. The timing could not be better as far as the intensity of the investigative aspects of this story unravels. The well woven tale involves the discovery of dead children who died apparently due to the lack of intervention of their parents and guardians because of the strength of belief in 'faith healing'. In the author's words, 'If you believe that prayer for the sick to the exclusion of medical care is a thing of the past, think again. Each year children in the United States suffer horribly and die from injuries or medical conditions readily treated by physicians and hospitals. Do a literature search on faith healing or go to the website of "Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, Inc." (childrenshealthcare.org).

The second novel I read this weekend by Dr. Gold just might be more traumatic to read than the first one... But fortunately, it does not happen as often--or at least I didn't think so, until I found the following on Dr. Gold's site: If you believe that prayer for the sick to the exclusion of medical care is a thing of the past, think again...God forgive us! Words leave me as I now realize that Dr. Gold's story is based upon fact! I remember when, upon being diagnosed with clinical depression for job burnout, my older sister told me she'd take me for prayer at church...And I'd get over it...What she didn't know was that I had already called our pastor. When he and his wife came, they did pray, but

they also sent me immediately to a doctor! I took that advice and went on immediate medical leave for exhaustion. It is hard for me to understand how anybody could have a sick child and not immediately take them for all the wonderful care that is available to them. Please know that this book is detailed in describing these activities and people who are doing this. The important part, however, for me, was the trial portion. So I also consider it a legal thriller of importance! A small farm had been established when Patricia inherited the land. Daniel and she had just left a church under duress, and they took those that had become to be known as followers with them... It was only by accident that what was happening was discovered. Two fugitives who had escaped prison had come to their town and the sheriff went after them, finding the cave they were going to use after he'd killed both of them... When the crime scene investigators came, it was then that they entered the cave where the fugitives apparently planned to hide...

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