



#### PUBLISHER

Literati Editions

#### PUBLICATION DATE

February 11, 2024

#### FORMAT, RETAIL PRICE / ISBN

eBook \$7.99 / 978-1-954123-45-8

Paperback \$16.99 / 978-1-954123-44-1

Hardcover \$27.99 / 978-1-954123-43-4

Audiobook \$19.99

#### GENRE / TRIM SIZE (PB+HC)

Thriller / 5.5" x 8.5"



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary McAvoy is author of both fiction and nonfiction, including his bestselling thriller series "The Magdalene Chronicles," and its sequel series, "Vatican Secret Archive Thrillers."

His nonfiction work "And Every Word Is True" has been hailed as a sequel to Truman Capote's landmark book "In Cold Blood." Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.

# THE CELESTIAL GUARDIAN

## (VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVE THRILLERS BOOK 8)

The Celestial Guardian is an exhilarating thriller that takes readers on a riveting journey into the heart of the Vatican's secretive world and the enigmatic artifacts held within its vaults. The story revolves around Father Michael Dominic, Prefect of the Vatican's Secret Archives, who discovers Leonardo da Vinci's greatest creation—the Celestial Guardian, a machine designed to predict astronomical events. This discovery is initially viewed as a miraculous tool warning of a cataclysmic asteroid headed towards Earth. However, a deeper exploration of Da Vinci's blueprint hints at a secondary, potentially dangerous function of the Guardian that extends beyond mere prediction—the extraordinary power to manipulate celestial events.

This revelation sparks a perilous pursuit for dominance over the Guardian. Its power to transform cosmic events into weapons of mass destruction lures various factions, including a Vatican cardinal blinded by ambition. As religious doctrines change and the Church comes under scrutiny, Father Michael grapples with his own emotional entanglements while racing against time to prevent global disaster. From the power corridors of the Vatican to the forefront of scientific exploration, the story delves into the complex interplay between science, faith, and human vulnerability, offering a thrilling narrative that questions where the line between miracle and science is drawn.

Set against a rich tapestry of Vatican mysteries and celestial secrets, the novel weaves historical intrigue with scientific discovery and human drama. The Celestial Guardian promises a journey filled with suspense, where ambition and the resilience of the human spirit collide amid cosmic threats, keeping readers gripped from start to finish.

#### EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"I am always excited when Gary McAvoy reaches out with another of his novels, full of action and a number of teachable moments. While usually steeped in religious and Catholic history, McAvoy pushes into a more scientific domain, while tackling modern issues of astrophysics, Church doctrine, and international safety. There are still the core characters that series fans have come to enjoy, with some great development, both personal and story arc related. McAvoy does not disappoint in yet another thrilling novel within this stellar series.

While I have always enjoyed McAvoy's writing about the Catholic Church in historical and modern times, I have also come to really enjoy his branching out into the impact of science on the Church and its policies. He does so here with da Vinci's Celestial Guardian, illustrating the complexities of the device, its use, and the power struggle to possess its abilities. The narrative moves along at a fast pace and keeps the reader enthralled as events occur, posing a number of questions about ethical, political, and religious rights. The story's momentum builds effectively and climaxes with a wonderful revelation that McAvoy surely hopes to ensure the reader ponders. With his great characters always evolving, the reader is permitted a generous glimpse into their intertwining, none greater than the Father Dominic/Hana Sinclair situation that has plagued series fans.

McAvoy has never struggled to create great plot points and developments to advance to story effectively. This is no exception, with a number of issues to tackle and resolve, McAvoy keeps the action high and the predictability low at times, juggling the concerns of many entities to develop a final solution for the main plot point, as well as hinting how one of the ongoing sub-plots might resolve itself. I have thoroughly enjoyed this series to date and am always eager to see what's next, as things on the Holy See never seem to remain stagnant.

Kudos, Mr. McAvoy, for keeping things on edge until the final page turn." —  
**MATT PECHEY, Reedsy Discovery. "MUST READ" 5-Star Review**