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

Thriller / 5.5" x 8.5"



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary McAvooy 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 Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.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 CONFESSIONS OF POPE JOAN (VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVE THRILLERS BOOK 7)

Amid the serene expanse of the English countryside, a chilling revelation begins to unfold, promising to shake the very foundations of Church history. Father Michael Dominic stumbles upon a cryptic diary that points to a hitherto undiscovered 1st century Gospel. As he steps into a labyrinth of shocking betrayals and bloodshed, he partners with Hana Sinclair, a sharp-witted journalist, to decode a secret tightly woven into the Church's legacy. *The Confessions of Pope Joan* narrates a tale pulsating with bravery and conviction, recounting their perilous journey against an adversary bent on concealing the truth.

As their quest progresses, the shadows of the past reveal the existence of Pope Joan, the Church's forgotten female pontiff, her reign erased by the passage of time and a curtain of conspiracy. Embarking on a path teeming with treachery and power plays, they grapple against a society deeply entrenched in patriarchal norms. On a parallel course, Detective Inspector Grace Dempsey, drawn into a murder mystery in England, unexpectedly finds herself linked to this historic unveiling. Their stories weave together, crafting a suspenseful saga that melds the past with the present, blurring the line between reality and fiction.

Simultaneously, Pope Ignatius, Michael's frail father, is engaged in his own internal strife, contending with the burden of his legacy. Caught in the crossfire between preserving the Church's history and molding its destiny, his choices become the linchpin in the pursuit of truth. His bold move to enact change through two Apostolic Constitutions ushers in a potential new epoch in the Church, pushing against age-old doctrines and customs.

*The Confessions of Pope Joan* seamlessly merges historical revelation with a captivating mystery, while highlighting the tenacity of the human spirit. The narrative probes the deepest corridors of the Catholic Church, revealing long-guarded secrets. With a cast of dynamic characters, intricate plot twists, and thought-provoking perspectives, this novel invites readers on an enthralling journey where history and the present merge to redefine the future. As the layers unfold, *The Confessions of Pope Joan* nudges its readers to confront the familiar and contend with the inconceivable, establishing itself as a compelling read for enthusiasts of historical thrillers.

#### EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"The detailed writing of Gary McAvooy makes this series and the larger group of books related to Father Michael Dominic not only a joy to read, but provides numerous points of educational insight. While the books are deeply rooted in Christian history and the role played by the Catholic Church, they are not meant to inculcate the reader into believing a set of views espoused by the author. Rather, they seek to provide moments of thought as McAvooy hopes to leave the reader with some introspection.

McAvooy offers the reader a strong narrative foundation, permitting them to follow the story with relative ease. This enriching of the larger story can be appreciated by those who have a firm grasp of the series. Plot twists emerge and build on one another with ease. McAvooy has long been known to add moments of action and religious curiosity, both of which fuel the plot developments and keep the story from becoming too predictable. There is a strong sense of something extreme coming in the near future, which I am sure McAvooy has been planning for a few novels, I cannot wait to see how the cliffhanger at the end will play into the next novel and what role Father Michael Dominic might have moving forward.

Kudos, Mr. McAvooy, for another chilling thriller. I love your views, your insights, and your ability to grip the reader so effectively." — **MATT PECHEY, Reedsy Discovery**