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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 Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.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 OPUS DICTUM

(VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVE THRILLERS BOOK 2)

Two clandestine syndicates want control over the Church's power, and the tools to do it are hiding deep in the Vatican Secret Archives. But first they have to deal with a meddling priest who could ruin their plans.

Father Michael Dominic is intrigued when a long-lost briefcase is discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives. Inside, he finds incriminating documents, a special key, and a computer disk filled with codes, which together unlock a piece of the Catholic institution's troubled past. Suspicious they could influence a special conclave to elect a new pope, Dominic must discover what the documents reveal before it's too late.

But the two menacing institutions close in on Dominic, intent on taking the key and cipher for their own sinister ends. Father Michael, his young assistant, and a feisty young nun have to work together to decode the information before anyone else. Can they solve the puzzle in time, or will their enemies obstruct centuries of Church history?

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"Various factions vie for wealth, power, and control of the Vatican in this taut political thriller based in part on actual events. A briefcase full of secrets belonging to murdered Italian banker Roberto Calvi turns up in an obscure Vatican archive supervised by Fr. Michael Dominic. The priest finds himself drawn into a struggle for the secrets involving Catholic organization Opus Deus, which has sinister plans, and the Mafia-connected Masonic lodge, Propaganda Due. Working with journalist Hana Sinclair and her bodyguard, Marco Picard, Dominic must battle for the future of the Catholic Church as cardinals jockey to see who will become the next pope.

McAvoy (The Magdalene Chronicles) excels at keeping the story moving at a gallop. Forbidden romances, Nazi sympathizers, murderous commandos, conspiratorial nuns, and a foul-mouthed cardinal all continually turn up, while well-researched details on hand-to-hand combat and firearms lend a strong verisimilitude to the handsomely staged fight scenes. Indeed, McAvoy does a nice job enriching the entire Vatican setting with persuasive detail, from soccer matches among Swiss Guards to the office layout of a powerful bishop. He also can turn a phrase neatly, as when henchmen are described as "chief architects of chaos." Sometimes the action crowds out opportunities for character and thematic development, but it flows so quickly that thriller fans will want to finish the book in a single sitting,

Takeaway: International thriller fans will relish the political machinations, nonstop action and the delightfully evil secret societies." — **PUBLISHERS WEEKLY/BOOKLIFE**

"Always eager to read the work of Gary McAvoy, I rushed to begin the latest featuring Father Michael Dominic, which did not disappoint. Exploring another angle of Vatican-based politics and sinister goings-on, McAvoy takes readers through a historical event and provides strong modern action to support it. In this case, all relates to a more recent event, where a mysterious briefcase finds itself in the Vatican Archives. What it contains could not only reveal the existence of a powerful group thought defunct, but also change the path of the Catholic Church forever. It will be up to a handful of dedicated individuals to stop this before it's too late. Another winner by Gary McAvoy that will have those who love a good thriller on the edge of their seats.

Kudos, Mr. McAvoy, for another stunning story. You never cease to amaze me with your writing." — **MATT PECHEY, Reedsy Discovery**