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 Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.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

## (VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVE THRILLERS BOOK 1)

During the election of a new Pope in the mid-18th century, famed violinist Antonio Vivaldi learns of a ring of art forgers who are replacing the Vatican's priceless treasures with expertly-painted fakes. Desperate, the composer hides a message in a special melody, hoping someone, someday, will take down the culprits...

Nearly three hundred years later, the confession of a dying Mafia Don alerts a Venetian priest to a wealth of forged paintings in the Vatican Museum, and the key to their identities lies hidden in a puzzling piece of music. Father Michael Dominic, prefect of the Secret Archives, investigates, and is mystified when he finds a cipher in an old composition from Vivaldi. Desperate to stop this centuries-long conspiracy, he calls on fellow sleuth Hana Sinclair and Dr. Livia Gallo, a music cryptologist, to help him crack the code and learn the truth.

But the Camorra, a centuries-old Italian Mafia clan, won't stand by while some interfering priest ruins their most lucrative operation. Along with a French commando and two valiant Swiss Guards, Dominic explores the dark canals and grand palazzos of Venice to uncover the evidence he needs to stop the sinister plot. Can he unearth it in time, or will the Church's most valuable artworks fall prey to this massive conspiracy?

#### EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"McAvoy's plot melds art, music, and ciphers into a century-spanning, edge-of-your-seat heist. Historic and modern clues meld together perfectly, and the complex workings of church and mob hierarchies combined with character relationships elevate the story. McAvoy's prose is both clear and direct, serving the story well. Clever dialogue and unique character voices make the novel shine even brighter.

A fun, exciting look at a centuries-old art scam sets the church and the mob at odds, weaving historical figures and wonderfully crafted characters together in a sweeping mystery/thriller sure to appeal to fans of the genre. Father Michael Dominic is a complex protagonist, grappling with his emotions as well as mysteries that need unfolding and an angry mob boss. Antagonist Don Angelo Gallucci proves a classic villainous mob boss." — **THE BOOKLIFE PRIZE 2021**

"It was just last summer that I discovered the work of Gary McAvooy and I have not been able to say enough about him since. Using a backdrop of the Vatican, McAvooy pens a wonderful series of thrillers that push mysteries beyond what most writers would concoct and keeps the reader guessing until the end. Use of two forms of art in this piece make for added thrills in a book that tries to serve as a standalone, but also wonderfully complements McAvooy's past trilogy. I cannot get enough of these books, as my binge reading has proven repeatedly.

As I read the book, I could not help but wonder if this could be the continuation of the past series. It flows so well and keeps the same pace I found in each of the Magdalene thrillers, but seeks to branch out a little. Father Dominic is back in the limelight and using his vocation to bring new adventures to light, even if they are filled with danger. McAvooy concocts a wonderful thriller with a powerful narrative push that is like few books I have seen before. Short chapters and clipped dialogue keep the reader pushing ahead, fueled by a plot that is full of twists at every turn. I could not stop reading and found myself bingeing just to get through this book, more out of addiction to the story than anything else. Those who have yet to discover Gary McAvooy ought to begin with his Magdalene trilogy, though I suppose this could serve as a standalone (but why would you want to shortchange yourself?). I cannot wait to see what's next, as I will be first in queue to get my hands on it." — **MATT PECHEY, Reedsy Discovery**