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 Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.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

(VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVE THRILLERS BOOK 10)

When investigative journalist Hana Sinclair uncovers a cryptic reference to an ancient botanical manuscript left to by her late grandfather, she unravels a thread tied to Hildegard von Bingen, a 12th-century abbess, healer, and mystic. Her findings reveal that Hildegard's work holds more than historical value—it may conceal the key to curing some of humanity's most devastating diseases. But someone is determined to ensure her secrets stay buried.

As Hana teams up with Father Michael Dominic, prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, and Marcus Russo, a Vatican archaeologist, they discover that a powerful biotech corporation, Zentara, has been systematically suppressing cancer cures for profit. Zentara's reach is vast, its operatives ruthless, and its agenda clear: control the narrative of medical progress at any cost.

The team races to uncover and protect Hildegard's work, their journey taking them from Geneva to Rupertsberg Abbey, where Hildegard lived and worked, to Zentara's high-tech laboratories. Along the way, they face betrayal, danger, and the weight of their own convictions. For Hana, the fight becomes deeply personal, challenging her notions of justice and the role of science in society.

A gripping tale of courage, faith, and the pursuit of truth, *The Hildegard Seeds* explores the timeless struggle between greed and the greater good, weaving historical intrigue with modern-day suspense in a story that will resonate long after the final page.

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"Always eager to get my hands on a novel by Gary McAvooy, I was pleased to have been provided this ARC of the latest in the Vatican Secret Archive Thrillers series. McAvooy brings Father Michael Dominic and Hana Sinclair back with a mystery that has strong ties to history and the power of the Church. The book pushes away from the Vatican's importance and thrusts a gift that Hana received into the limelight. With an old manuscript and samples of medicines made in the 12th century, Hana and Father Michael must get to the core of the issue and try to protect it, as a group has plans to profit from the cache. Dodging those who have no respect for life or limb, Hana and Father Michael soon find themselves as targets in Germany and must work to uncover the truth for the benefit of all. McAvooy delivers a thrilling piece once more in this series that never seems to lose its momentum.

After learning of the death of her grandfather, Hana Sinclair discovers references to a historical manuscript purported to belong to a 12th century healer. Tapping into her career as an investigative journalist, Hana seeks to know more about Hildegard von Bingen and what she did while working at a German monastery. Enlisting the help of her close friend and fiancé, Father Michael Dominic, the pair begin another of their intense adventures. This may not be something emanating from the Vatican Secret Archives, but it will likely be just as captivating the more history comes to the surface.

After exploring more of the manuscript, Hana realises that it is a botanical tome that could hold clues to some of the most powerful natural healing properties to combat diseases that have plagued modern times for centuries. She knows the importance, but also the danger that awaits her. Even arriving in Germany, Hana and Father Dominic cannot be sure what they will find or who might be looking to grab their own bit of the action.

Gathering a few others to help with the investigation, Hana and Father Dominic begin to find truths long buried in the manuscript and inside the walls of the Rupertsberg Abbey. A powerful Swiss biotech firm comes sniffing around with rumors of what Hildegard may have had in her possession and the fight is on, where significant sums of money await. From Geneva to the Black Forest in Germany, no stone will go unturned to get to the truth, though some are more ruthless than others. What awaits everyone is a discovery like no other that could truly shape disease management well into the future. A stunning story and development of yet another strong branch in the Vatican Secret Archives series, showing just how versatile Gary McAvooy can be." — **MATT PECHEY, Reedsy**