



Daughter of God

By Lewis Perdue

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The secret? Irrefutable proof of a female Messiah named Sophia. Born in the Holy Land in 310 AD, Sophia was known for performing healing miracles. Her divinity so threatened early Christian dogma on the inferiority of women that she was executed by Church authorities.

In the present, Zoe Ridgeway, an art broker, visits Switzerland with her husband Seth, where she expects to purchase the estate of a German art collector. But before Zoe can complete the transaction, she and Seth are drawn into a thousand year-old web of conspiracy, murder and intrigue that begins and ends with the mystery of Sophia -- and all the powerful forces who seek to protect their patriarchies from a divinely feminine truth.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Nazi plunder of Europe's art and antiquities during WWII sets the stage for a thriller spun around a religious coverup so devastating it could topple the Vatican and crush Western religion. A dying, repentant Nazi, Willi Max, calls renowned American art broker/historian Zoe Ridgeway, to Switzerland, where he reveals his cache of looted treasure, hiring her to catalogue and return it to the owners or heirs. Shortly after she tells her husband, Seth--an ex-L.A. cop turned comparative religion professor at UCLA--about the exciting job, she is kidnapped from their Zurich hotel room. The dismissive Swiss police do little to search for Zoe, so Seth takes charge when he reads that Willi Max died when a fire demolished his mansion just hours after Zoe met with him. Seth discovers that the destroyed treasures are only a fraction of the spoils stashed in a booby-trapped salt mine since WWII. One religious relic's very existence was kept secret by the Vatican for centuries: it's a burial shroud clearly showing the image of a young girl, a second messiah. This "daughter of God" was killed, along with her entire village, in the time of Constantine, because her sex and her healing powers threatened the fledgling Christian religion. When the Nazis found out about the shroud, Hitler used the relic to blackmail Pope Pius into silence about Nazi atrocities. Seth has sole access to the salt mine and soon the head of Vatican intelligence, the Russian mafiya and other sinister agents give murderous chase. Perdue's speedy tale of greed and power boasts strong heroes and villains with credible motivation. He steps nimbly between Switzerland and L.A., putting Zoe in peril, but with the wits to save herself. A valiant cadre of aging war survivors add color to the cast. Agent, Natasha Kem. (Feb.)

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From Booklist

Former investigative reporter Perdue spent years tracing missing art all over Europe. The value of that experience is made clear in this edge-of-your-seat thriller about Sophia, a female Messiah born three centuries after Christ. Sophia's very existence, her healing miracles, and the fact that she was attracting a serious following, added up to a major threat to religious dogma treating women as strictly inferior beings. The threat ended with her execution--or so Church authorities thought--and her existence remained a well-kept Vatican secret until Hitler's art looters stumbled on it. Fast forward to the present. Zoe Ridgeway, art expert and broker is in Switzerland to handle an amazing collection for a dying German. The German's death is speeded up by outside forces including Russian gangsters, American agents, and a Cardinal-who-would-be-Pope, all of whom seek the proof of Sophia's existence. Zoe is kidnapped by the Russians and almost murdered before matters reach a surprising finale. Perdue makes superb use of apocalyptic themes in what is an outstanding thriller on every level. This one will cause a lot of sleepless nights. *Budd Arthur*

From Kirkus Reviews

Former investigative journalist Perdue, who specialized in recovery of art missing in Europe offers a thriller about a world-shattering secret kept under wraps by the Catholic Church for more than 1600 years. Art broker and appraiser Zoe Ridgeway goes to Switzerland with her husband, Seth, a professor of comparative religion at UCLA, at the call of dying collector Willi Max, whose mansion is hung with lost masterworks. Max, a former Nazi entrusted with hiding stolen art, wants to atone for the Leonards and Vermeers he has kept from human view and also for hiding documents from the time of Emperor Constantine that attest to the rise of a second Messiah during Constantine's reign, as well as of the existence of a second shroud, one perhaps even more convincing than the Shroud of Turin. Unhappily for the Church, this one holds the image of a female messiah. Soon after Max presents these documents to both Zoe, who receives them with feminist cynicism toward the Church, and Seth, a wavering believer, the works are stolen from them and Zoe is kidnapped. Cut to the Vatican, where the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) holds sway and

defends the truth of the Faith against opposing truths, recalling the time when the maid Sophia arose, around the period of the editorial disputes of the Bishops of Nicea as they assembled Church doctrine, and began preaching, healing, and performing miracles before she was put to death to save ameliorative doctrine issued and enforced by Constantine. One doctrine: that Jesus was or is consubstantial with God. Sophia, or Wisdom, Perdue suggests, might well be the Logos of the Christian Trinity before it was decreed all male. Persuasively written, fact-based fiction that takes on an endlessly gripping subjectmatters of faith decided by political expediency rather than spiritual value. -- *Copyright ©2000, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christy Dennie:

Here thing why that Daughter of God are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Daughter of God giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no reserve that similar with Daughter of God. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing that will happen in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your means home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Daughter of God in e-book can be your option.

Fay Harris:

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Jacob Hill:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a guide. The book Daughter of God it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can more effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

Raymond Crandall:

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