



SOVEREIGNTY

HE LIED FOR YOUR SINS

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A self-gratifying Roman banker is desperate to make a name for himself in the volatile world of imperial finance. When he's offered a lucrative contract he can't fulfil, he considers the dying religion in his city of Jerusalem.

It soon becomes clear that faith is profitable if only he can find a man to spearhead his campaign and revive the churches. His idea comes to fruition when he meets a respected local wiseman--Jesus Christ.

Sovereignty: He Lied for Your Sins Details

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From Reader Review Sovereignty: He Lied for Your Sins for online ebook

James Knight says

First of all, kudos to Australian author Rhys Hagan for having the big brass cojones to write such a daring, powerful and thought-provoking indictment of the origin of Christianity. Critics should keep in mind that this is a novel of historical fiction. It makes the reader think. It may make some individuals who are not dogmatic and blindly accepting of the incontrovertible nature of their religious beliefs view their religion in a new light. For those who believe that they should accept religion without questioning its tenets, then don't bother to read this book because it will make you think and likely piss you off. And I'm sure that Mr. Hagan will receive enough hateful invectives without yours.

The basic premise of this novel is to stimulate the reader to think about the possibility that Christianity originated as a cynical money making con derived by a greedy politician and his followers in the mold of some modern day ones. In Hagan's novel, Jesus Christ is a charismatic and gifted speaker who was developing a significant local following and was beginning to be considered as a wiseman. The book is written from the narrative perspective of a young Roman banker named Amphion Gallius whose family owned several churches and made a modest profit from tithes and donations. Amphion was offered a lucrative contract by Pontius Pilate to finance a war and make a tidy profit. But Amphion and his family are a bit cash poor at the time. Amphion devised an ingenious scheme to blackmail Jesus into posing as the Son of God and convince the citizens of Judea that he was the messiah and that they should contribute their money to the church to win eternal favor with God.

Amphion and his brother Marcus (who is writing the New Testament) and other associates stage miracles for Jesus to perform and further convince the locals that Jesus has super-natural powers. Hagan's novel is true to the historical violence and brutality of the times and describes a lot of grizzly, gruesome and graphic violence. There is also a lot of subterfuge and double-crossing that ensues. For Amphion and Jesus, events spin out of control, the subterfuge and the violence intensifies as the book nears its conclusion. I hope that it is not considered a spoiler to say that, as in the Biblical version of the story, the book ends with Jesus being crucified.

I consider Sovereignty to be a powerful work of fiction that forces the reader to consider some serious themes including the immutability of religious teachings, the potential for religious corruption (consider the current-day evangelists who have become multi-millionaires from religion) and the human capacity for self-deception and for being persuaded to act based upon the message delivered by a smooth talking con man.

I received a free autographed copy of the book directly from the author with no obligation. This review is provided voluntarily.

Jessica says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

To be honest I'm pretty amazed at the daring of the author to write a book like this. Fiction or not it directly takes on Christianity head on. For being bold enough to make a statement like that, I greatly respect the author.

What if everything that you were taught to believe was, in fact, a fiction created by power hungry people and the doctrine you follow was nothing more than one more piece of that fiction? What if your beloved Savior was nothing more than a poor man forced to pretend to be something he's not so that someone else could make monetary gains?

Rhys Hagan has re-imagined a whole new beginning to the Christian religion. The only thing that stayed the same was Jesus being a down to earth, humble teacher. All of the major players we know from the old Bible stories were present, but their stories were modified. Jesus, for instance, was married to Mary and their son was David. Regardless, the point of the story was the same. Amphion wanted to take on a contract and he needed money to do it so he used Jesus to spearhead a new religion.

“Hundreds, thousands of years ago, it was someone like me who started it all. A lie that was told to facilitate the agenda of the times. And, if I have my way, hundreds, thousands of years from now, the story of Christ will still be told. Only it will be adapted to suit the agenda of those times - a lie transposed for a modern purpose.” (Page 307)

“Luke if there's one thing to take away from Christianity, it's that faith is profitable.” (Page 307)

The author kept true to the brutality of the times with the torture chambers of the Romans and the violence that was favored. For me it was a little too gruesome but it was historically accurate.

I really think this was a remarkable and powerful piece of fiction. The author took a huge chance to write something that is this openly challenging to the Christian faith (fiction or not) and I have a lot of respect for that. I'm giving the book 5 stars because it was well thought out, researched and creative.

Trully Sunee says

I received an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review. Having read this book, I saw the darkness of people who function out of the greeds of society and how easily we brainwash ourselves. Those that hate anything or anyone including those with same or different beliefs are so similar. This book showed the realities of life sometimes aren't nearly as extreme as the desperate Roman banker who would do anything for gain, even use Jesus nor those who would do anything for Jesus.

What is noticeable when reading this book is, most people are somewhere in a comfort zone with their beliefs and the religions they follow, just blindly following and this is where the author challenges the reader. Don't blindly follow anything and know the roots of what the history of what you believe are. Don't think it's all so beautiful and found on sugar and spice, everything nice.

Later on, this novel shows faith comes too late if we wait until there's nothing left to do but die. Focusing on others and their misdeeds only allows us to crucify ourselves in the end. Who are we to judge anyone else, including their beliefs? We have freedom of religion and speech and what we do to make this world a better place for all, a paradise on earth is what Jesus and all messengers came to do. We can have life and breath

also and not be living!

Nonbelievers were shook by Jesus' solidness. The disciples had faith but were still not as sure of how to walk in faith all the time. They still very much tapped into the changeable human qualities that creates more ups and downs for their lives but they knew how to stand up for something.

What's interesting is who Jesus spoke to. If we all are one and connected the difference in what we read, who we believe in, the anger, hypocrisy, blasphemy wouldn't be there, only how to get closer and unite. The message would be clear and the messenger wouldn't be an issue. Showing how to live a life worthy of living so that when this body is shed, it's no big deal is what message comes clearer near the end as reading this novel.

Not reacting to others accusations, threats, ignorance is a lesson Jesus showed over and over. Who prayed, believed, worshipped, believed the same as him wasn't even relevant. Jesus could care less about these things so why should we? Know how to find and keep the truth is what this book was portraying because it's easy to lie to oneself. This book took a lot of research and it was very interesting how truth was shared with fiction. This author really reached far into himself to really challenge everyone's mindset.

Gina Catalano says

“The brutality and the significant people of the era are clearly well-researched while the challenge to Christian faith is bold. It can be seen as powerful, or disrespectful, but it can't be denied that it tests the reader and still manages to hold suspense despite its well-known non-fiction counterpart.”

For the full review, visit blackisthenewapstyle.com/2018/03/he-1...
