



Woman of God

James Patterson , Maxine Paetro

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St. Peter's Square, Rome.

White smoke signals that a new Pope has been chosen.

The world is watching as massive crowds gather in Rome, waiting for news of a new Pope. It's a turning point that could change the Catholic Church for ever, as one of the rumoured candidates, Brigid Fitzgerald, would be the first female Pope in history.

But Brigid has made a legion of powerful enemies and is a target for all those who fear that the Church has lost its way – dangerous adversaries who won't accept challenges to tradition.

Locked in a deadly, high-stakes battle with forces determined to undermine her, Brigid must confront her enemies before she loses everything... including her life.

Woman of God Details

Date : Published September 26th 2016 by Little, Brown and Company

ISBN :

Author : James Patterson , Maxine Paetro

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Fiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review Woman of God for online ebook

Suzanne says

I just do not know how to rate or review this book. Hell, I do even know how I felt about this book. I did not get engrossed in the story but it was not a bad story. I think I just did not connect with it or the characters as much as I would have liked to. It is still a James Patterson book so it is far from bad, just did not feel this one. This is about vast changes within the Catholic church with the main character becoming a priest and even having her name in the hat for pope.

My quick and simple overall: yeah, I don't know honestly. Some will like it, some will not, and then some will be left like me shrugging.

Mahoghani 23 says

This is a side of James Patterson that demonstrates his ability to traverse in many genres. This time the author explores faith from the Catholic church. Even as I'm writing this review, I'm getting goosebumps as I prepare to give you a synopsis from my point of view.

Bridget Fitzgerald is a woman whose running from something, trying to save others. She's just completed her residency and she's in South Sudan, in Northern Africa, working in a makeshift hospital called Kind Hands, trying to help the villagers as Colonel Dave Zuberi and his militia committed atrocious acts of genocide and killed anyone trying to help them. Throughout her time in Africa, she continually prays, argues with God, and disowns God until a time comes when she's in his presence and her life and her actions change. She learns things about herself and experiences trials and tribulations that break her and re-establish her into what she will eventually become; a woman of God.

This is a fictional story but the activity within the book is real. There are people believing that God only talks to men or places them at the head of the church. You have people willing to kill people because of their religious beliefs, and you deal with heartache of losing a loved one. While reading, I couldn't fathom people's reaction in the book and then I realized we do this everyday. No one knows who God has chosen but we do know from the Bible, God chose women to do extraordinary things and Jesus changed the dynamics of women when he spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well. This book will entertain you and simultaneously bring you to the realization of how we judge what's right and what's wrong before we ask God what he thinks.

As we all know, I enjoyed this book tremendously and will vote it as one the best books to read for 2018. This book is not for people who can't deal with gruesome descriptions of deaths, genocide and religion. I would recommend this book to people twenty years of age and older.

Rachel Nicole Wagner says

5/5 STARS (If I could rate this even higher, I would)

Woman of God by James Patterson & Maxine Paetro is nothing short of amazing. I began this book with high expectations and ready to read an unexpected story because it seemed like nothing James Patterson has ever released before. I'm happy to report that my expectations were exceeded by a long shot. Brigid Fitzgerald has left a lasting impression on me and is now one of my top favorite female characters in a novel of ALL TIME. I am a registered nurse and working at a clinic or hospital is nothing compared to the way she sacrificed herself and put her life in danger in South Sudan to care for people that were so unfortunate to be in that land of war and surrounded by so much strife. I related to Brigid on so many levels because she had such deep care and love for the people she cared for and no matter the situation, she was always trying to save a life. I also relate to her because of her faith. She lost SO many people in this story that along the way I was even asking, "How is Brigid going to make it through this?"

I lost my uncle, papa and great grandma in 2008, all three months apart. My uncle was 35, my papa was 57 and my great grandma was 79. They were what I consider to be my "very close," family members. When I lost them I lost a part of me. I still search for those pieces that are missing deep within my soul. I've only made it through with the help of God. Without Him, His peace and strength He gave me and my family, I wouldn't be here today. The day I watched my papa take his last breath as we were all gathered around his bed and holding on to him was the day I decided I had to do something. I didn't want his life to be a life that didn't inspire something, I didn't want his legacy to die in vain. I decided I would become a nurse that day. I held on to that and at the age of 21 I graduated nursing school with honors.

I've lost so many people that I've grown close to. My best friend and partner through nursing school was killed in a head-on collision three weeks after our nursing school graduation. I know what it's like to feel the world collapsing in around you. Brigid Fitzgerald's character made me feel that maybe I'm not so alone in the questions and the struggles I faced in losing my loved ones. Every time I take care of a patient, I image them being my papa, grandma, uncle or my best friend. And every time a family member needs comforting after the death of a loved one, I want to be there to hold them and let them know that I've been there and I know what it's like to lose someone so dear and close to you.

Brigid Fitzgerald's story of life, love, loss, faith, forgiveness, and destiny touched my life in ways that I never thought a book could. This will forever be one of my favorite books of all time. James Patterson and Maxine Paetro have forever touched my life through this novel. Thank you for the amazing story that you've written and thank you for sharing it with the world. I am so thankful to have been chosen as one of the lucky recipients of an ARC of this book before its release in September 2016. This book has touched my heart, my life, and my faith. Thank you, James Patterson and Maxine Paetro for this.

Sincerely,
Rachel

Jill Croce-McGill says

James Patterson and Maxine Paetro have given us another solid hit with Woman of God! This is definitely not the typical James Patterson novel with all the mystery and crime. This is an inspiring story about one woman whose faith has been tested over and over again. It's about tragedy, love, hope and learning how to overcome it all through faith. Often through our darkest times is when our faith is being tested, you can either hold on to it or lose faith altogether.

A well-written and inspiring story that I highly recommend!

Dianne Bright says

In all honesty, this is one of the best books I've ever read. The female protagonist's tenacious pursuit of faith amidst extreme adversities (literally one after the next) moved me to tears, which doesn't usually happen from fictional characters. I've not met a braver female character than Brigid Fitzgerald.

That said, as a conservative reader, I did not connect with about ten percent of the book that focused on criticizing the Catholic Church's outdated practices; the idea of modernizing the Church, in a way that required watered down ethics, seemed incongruous with 90% of the book that I connected with so fervently. Even so, I still give this book 5 stars, because from beginning to end, I was deeply engaged as a reader. The character development was great. The pacing was perfect, and by perfect, I mean fast-- which is to be expected from Patterson. The circular nature which connected the beginning to the ending gave this book a literary feel, which I appreciated. The attention to detail was incredible; in some ways, I felt like I was actually in Sudan, Rome, and Boston.

Most readers, especially moms, will find deep encouragement and renewed perspective from Brigid's ability to hang on to her faith, even as her world falls apart.

*Thanks to Mr. Patterson's assistant for my complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Suzanne the Bookaholic and Proud says

(some spoilers!!)

WOW!!

Woman of God, is an extraordinary read, testing a person's faith through thick and thin, there were times when reading this and thinking, 'how can all this happen to one person', being a doctor in south Sudan at 'kind hearts' and seeing all of the death and destruction, to being shot, and technically declared dead, only, to come through it all and go back, to having to live through your husband and newborn child dying, (that literally broke me to pieces reading that, as I have kids), to questioning faith and then to survive a bomb, only to have another husband dying, and being shot at again.

Bridgit Fitzgerald is a Woman of God, through all that, and even her doubts about faith she still has it, and her belief of God visiting her and saying that she has a bigger purpose.

This was a interesting read as I am an atheist, and reading about things that happen and happening for a reason and that there is a plan for them, really opens your perspective towards religion.

I have read the Bible (couldn't marked 'read' on good reads lol).

I hoped that some people are not upset or angry about this book or review as it is based on opinions and everyone has there own, including beliefs.

if you have gotten this far in reading this I applaud you lol, thanks for reading it too x

thewanderingjew says

A Woman of God, James Patterson, Maxine Paetro, authors; Therese Plummer, narrator

While I found the book interesting because of the content, which was partly about volunteering one's time and working in the South Sudan to help those less fortunate, I found Brigid Fitzgerald to be a totally implausible character. The authors overplayed their hands by portraying her innocence and potential

godliness without giving her real substance in that regard. I found her experiences of falling in and out of love so frequently, each time expressing disbelief about being loved,, highly implausible. They made her seem shallow. As far as her being chosen by G-d to be a conduit, it seemed totally far-fetched. She never seemed to rise to that level of saintliness, and she had no real attachment to religion in any truly religious sense for most of her life. She believed in her faith, but she rarely practiced it. Still, as human beings go, she did have a Mother Theresa aspect to her. She sacrificed her life for others, placed herself in grave danger knowing full well she might be killed, and she chose to do this over having a lucrative medical practice. She was highly trained and very capable, but she was more dedicated to caring for others and more loyal to her friends than she was to her church or the making of money. She remained dedicated to the friends, patients and friends she made during the years she worked in Africa.

The book begins 20 years in the future with an attempt on Brigid Fitzgerald's life in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It then moves to the present day where she is found at a place called Kind Hands, in the South Sudan. She is young, unmarried, childless, and she is working in a dangerous place where medical facilities are almost always poorly equipped and also poorly defended from attacks by brutal, hostile gangs. There she falls in love with Colin who is killed because of her foolishness. They are in the middle of a terrible attack, with bullets coming at them from all sides, when she insists he help her in a futile attempt to evacuate a mortally wounded man, although there are thousands of other wounded, dying and dead all around her. During the attempt, a bullet finds Colin who is then mortally wounded. She herself sustains devastating wounds. After a long recovery, she goes to a close friend in Italy, and begins to work again. She meets another man, Karl Lenz. He is much older than she is, but they fall in love and have a child. They live in Berlin and are wonderfully happy. Both the child and father die suddenly when he suffers a heart attack, falls down a flight of steps and gravely injures the child in the process. After the death of both, she returns to South Sudan and helps to capture the brutal leader of the Gray Army which is a wild, roaming militia. Colonel Dage Zuberi is responsible for the brutal death of many in the South Sudan, and she is given credit for bringing him down.

After recovering from that harrowing experience, she begins to work with Prism, a drug rehab center. There she meets a priest accused of improper conduct with a student, a male student. The church refuses to back him up, but she believes in him and engages a lawyer. Eventually, after his acquittal, James leaves the church and begins a new movement called JMJ. The Jesus, Mary and Joseph movement is dedicated to more openness and freedom. Women can be ordained, members of the clergy may marry. They believe that Jesus would have welcomed that idea. James and Brigit decide to marry and they build a JMJ church where James officiates. When James professed his love for her, Brigid was once again surprised that someone loved her. She then suddenly realized that she was also in love with him. They have a child, Gilly, and their church thrives. However, the Catholic Church threatens James with excommunication and worse. They will paint him as a pervert unless they stop the movement. As the JMJ church grows and gains more followers, some in the church hierarchy grow even angrier. When James dies suddenly from an aneurism, Brigid once again suffers a loss and rails against G-d, questioning why he seems to grant her happiness only to take it away. Why would G-d do that? When Brigid is ordained, she begins to perform services in their church. Occasionally, she believes that G-d is communicating with her. This is a constant theme in the book. Is Brigid's uncanny ability to communicate with G-d after suffering a head injury real? She wonders if this is really happening to her or if she is imagining it. She wonders about it, even as the reader is wondering with her. Why would G-d communicate with her, and what would G-d's message to her mean? When she was suddenly summoned to the Vatican, she wondered why the Pope would summon her. Their conversation is even more bizarre than the rest of the book. They both have the same kinds of conversations with G-d.

When the idea of a woman Pope is introduced, one truly has to suspend disbelief, and even then, it is hard to believe it. The story lines simply feel completely implausible, and the path from Brigit's medical career to a

divinity career, to rumor's of her being Pope, even after having a child, are just out of the realm of possibility. The book was way too melodramatic for me and way too unrealistic. Brigid never seemed to be fully aware of what her actions would cause, or of what her own circumstances actually were, nor did she seem to learn from any experiences she had. She seemed to make the same mistakes over and over. Yet, she seemed to be loved by all, almost as a saint, and is given credit for things that make no apparent sense and do not seem to be the result of any logical progression. Also, Brigid seems to fall in and out of love with abandon, almost without her knowing it. Suddenly she realizes how much she loves the person who is proposing, only as he is proposing. Even after James dies, a former acquaintance, Zach, reenters her life, and she enjoys his company too. If I were Zach, I would steer clear of her. Everyone she marries or loves suddenly dies. Although she is described as someone who is not a great beauty, there must be something wonderful about her to make so many men and others fall in with her. She is extremely kind and compassionate and is dedicated to saving life even at the risk of her own, but she is also arrogant and headstrong to a fault and her sometimes seeming irrational behavior actually caused the death of others. I was disappointed with the book because the theory of a woman Pope is simply not in the realm of reality in the current day and twenty years into the future is also too short a time for such epiphanies to occur.

Greg says

"They had captured a hundred and twenty-nine children. They castrated the boys and left them to bleed to death. They had gang-raped the little girls before killing them. Little boys who had been unable to run were roped together, and their throats had been slit," so writes Patterson/Paetro on page 119 of this, a torture porn book sold under the pretense of a woman finding faith. And even worse, far more torturous, scenes have appeared in earlier pages. Okay, now, about the writing itself, get this: "I don't work for you, Dr. Whitehead. I go where I'm needed. And if you don't like it, you can go to hell." Okay, hilariously bad writing: without the torture porn elements, this book could have been at best a satire on....say...Twilight. Book closed for good at page 119.

Wendy says

Woman of God

This was an amazing book and certainly not what I was expecting. I have never read anything like this from James Patterson before and it was a breath of fresh air. I've always enjoyed the books that Maxine Paetro was the co author with James Patterson and I'm sure that she deserves most of the credit for this book. I'm going to look her up and give her books a read.

Denise says

2.0 out of 5 stars -- A test of faith. A HUGE test.

OK this woman had it so much worse than Job of the Bible. At first it was hard to see her go through the tragedies, but then it got to be WAY TOO MUCH. I often get suckered in to requesting a book based on the synopsis, but sometimes the actual story is nothing like what was written in the publicity materials. As it is

here.

I thought this novel was going to be about a woman Pope. NOT. So ignore the blurb. This is about a woman doctor, a humanitarian from KIND HANDS (an NGO), who goes to South Sudan to a hospital outpost to care for the victims injured in a bloody civil war there. The tide of hopelessness overwhelms the workers and all the intentions to do good works is futile in the face of murderous outlaw gangs, marauders, and the Gray Army. This militia has only one objective -- to kill everyone. Dr. Brigid Fitzgerald is dedicated and fiercely protective of her patients and her colleagues. But she is no match for the Gray Army leader, Colonel Dage Zuberi -- the king of atrocities. Death and more deaths...

In between her stints at the outpost hospital in Sudan, Brigid deals with personal relationships, love and marriage. She has trials and more trials as she questions her faith in God and her religion. She has visions. She and her husband start a church that is an offshoot of Roman Catholicism and they become the targets of some powerful enemies, including those in the hierarchy of the church. She becomes one of the first female "priests" and that causes further problems. Will her adversaries get the best of her as at each point her faith is tested?

I was totally disappointed in this novel and don't recommend it. Sure it's interesting for me as a Catholic to imagine a female priest and possible Pope, but despite the religious overtones, the novel never fulfilled my expectations. I felt let down by the continual drama and bad luck for Brigid. I never really connected with her character. Her "visions" left me in a state of disbelief. I had to struggle through to the end and deal with my disappointment of let down expectations. I rarely read Patterson anymore, and now, again, I know why.

Thank you to Little, Brown and Company and Edelweiss for the e-book ARC to review.

Tiffany PSquared says

This was unlike the usual Patterson books I've read. It was suspense and mystery with a message. However, at the end of it, I was wondering if that overall message was really strong enough.

Brigid Fitzgerald seems to encounter difficult situations (to put it mildly) at almost every single juncture in her life: in her jobs, her relationships, and her faith. We watch as she struggles to maintain her faith in God throughout all her hardships and also as she finds new reasons to believe along the way.

Although the book is well-written and engaging, I often felt so in despair and traumatized by the effects of the events it depicted that it left me feeling less inspired and more... depressed.

And if I'm being honest, I was willing the book to end long before the final chapter.

Jean West says

This is an advance read of James Patterson's new book *Woman of God*. Completely different from any of my previous experiences with his books. I was enthralled with the concept of the book, the front story of the first woman considered for the position of Pope, but it was so much more than that. It follows Brigid Fitzgerald through life altering experiences that mold her into a deep spiritual relationship. The story explores her

awareness of her personal relation with God, and makes one consider their own religious beliefs. I strongly recommend this book.

Matt says

The Patterson-Paetro partnership returns with a one-off novel that seeks to explore faith, religion, and the strength in both that one woman possesses in the modern world. Brigid Fitzgerald has been working in South Sudan, serving as a doctor and trauma surgeon in a war-torn corner of the country. After the medical facility is attacked by guerillas, many are slaughtered, including the local priest and Brigid's mentor. As she struggles to come to terms with this, Brigid, too, is attacked and left for dead. She sees a collection of visions and is left to wonder if she is communicating with God. Brigid wakes in an Amsterdam hospital and learns that she has been brought back from death and from thereon in has an odd and strengthened communication with God, from visions to complete conversations. As Brigid's life progresses, she continues to have a strong connection to God and uses this relationship to shape the lives of those around her. Tragedy offsets triumph and Brigid learns that God's decisions are not always pleasant, though there is surely a larger plan to which she is not always privy. After forging a friendship with Father James Aubrey, they weather a scandalous event and find that the Roman Catholic Church remains rooted in its archaic ways. Platonic ties soon turn romantic and Brigid works with Aubrey to create the Jesus Mary and Joseph (JMJ) Movement; a church seeking to modernise some Roman Catholic views as they relate to worship and those who are welcome in the flock. Of course, traditionalists rage against such blasphemy, though Brigid and Aubrey refuse to stop preaching. After a blessed marriage and birth of a daughter Aubrey and Brigid face yet more tragedy, enough to turn anyone from God. Brigid is now head of a movement, one that seeks compassion and openness, while there are still those out there seeking to rid the world of her proselytising. The rumbles of the JMJ Movement continue, with churches popping up all over the world, and leads to an audience with His Holiness, Pope Gregory XVII. What follows is a powerful narrative that turns the foundations of modern Catholicism on its head. An interesting read for those with open minds and seeking to explore the parameters of individual faith.

The premise of the novel is surely grounded in something other than most Patterson fans might expect. While crime and legal dramas have filled bookshelves, there is a softer and more wholesome story found within the pages of this novel. What Patterson and Paetro seek to offer the reader is an exploration of one woman's faith and struggles that surround it, while also examining the delight that can come from such a connection. One might also say that the authors are depicting Brigid as a modern-day Job, testing her faith with innumerable hurdles as the chapters progress. While the argument towards strength of faith is key, there is also a strong undertone that remains highly critical of the Roman Catholic Church and its principles. All this develops and digresses throughout, complete with a Conclave that emerges with Brigid on the lips of many cardinals. Putting aside the ignored rules and regulations surrounding this, the soft and dramatic events leading up to this are meant to touch the heart of the reader, while pushing them towards hoping that Brigid can shepherd in change. Using a plethora of strong characters, the authors develop a strong protagonist that sees the story take many twists before its ultimate set of revelations. While the story is strong for its messaging, I found it hokey and even melodramatic in spots, with a narrative that gets gushy and even smarmy. However, it does what it seeks to do, push women and the Church to the forefront, while also allowing the fairer sex to hold the reins during numerous crises of faith. For that, Patterson and Paetro cannot be faulted. Well-crafted for those who want a break from Patterson's tepid writing, which exemplifies that Paetro is able to save yet another story from ruin.

Kudos, Mr. Patterson and Madam Paetro for this book that touches the heart and soul of many. While I was

not moved to speak out, I enjoyed some of the less than subtle attacks on the Holy See's arcane views.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Tammy Adams says

This poor woman has more tragedies in her life than Job! Just totally over the top and unbelievable. Reading the blurb made me think this was going to be a book about a woman pope - NOT. Another odd religious book by Patterson.

David says

Completely different to the usual James Patterson offerings. No mystery/thriller here. Just a wonderful story about a remarkable woman who has her faith in God (and life) tested repeatedly by the most diabolical and tragic events. And yet, despite the adversity that is thrown at her, she has a strength and determination to not only survive, but a hope and a determination to make the world a better place. Inspirational.
