



The Body

Richard Ben Sapir

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IN A WORLD WHERE THE WORLD'S POWERS ARE LOCKED IN STRUGGLE, THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IS ABOUT TO BE UNVEILED . . . Jon Folan, a priest, a Vietnam vet, and a man of unshakable faith is chosen by the Pope for a frightening, lonely mission. In Jerusalem, a beautiful young archaeologist uncovers the ancient skeleton of a man and an Aramaic inscription which reads MELEK YEHUDAYAI King of the Jews. In the sun-seared land where men pray and kill, under the suspicious eyes of the Vatican, the United States, the Soviets, and the Israeli government, Folan is plunged into a world of doubt, intrigue, and temptation. He's a man fighting for his faith, for a woman, and for a dangerous truth . . . a truth that could shock the soul of millions and change the world forever.

The Body Details

Date : Published February 1st 1984 by Pinnacle Books (first published 1983)

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Author : Richard Ben Sapir

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jeffrey says

provocative, "what if" book.

Stacy says

What I like so much about this book is that it takes on a similar theme that Dan Brown's books take (Angels and Demons and The Da Vinci Code) and yet was written at least 10 years earlier.

Cathy says

This book was published in 1983 and is probably a very early example of the archaeology/suspense genre that is so popular today.

It is an extremely interesting premise: Is the body found in a Jerusalem tomb that of the unrisen Jesus?

Jim Folan, former Marine who worked for the CIA and now a Jesuit priest, is sent by the Vatican to discover the story of the body. He works with a Jewish archaeologist who found the body.

They begin an affair in the months during which Jim is investigating.

Jim comes to believe that the body is that of Jesus and attempts to steal it rather than see it become a pawn in the politics of the Middle East. He crosses into Syria with the bones which he then believes are destroyed by an agent of the KGB.

Back in Rome to deliver his report to the Pope, Jim is distraught and begs for release from his priestly vows so he can return and marry his lover.

The book ends with a surprise for Jim, his lover, and the reader.

Very well-written with good characters. Probably a good deal of the political machinations are what would have happened in 1983 if such an archaeological find was really made. Overall, a good story that held my interest. I wouldn't bother reading it again, though.

It was made into a movie @2001 with Antonio Banderas as Jim.

Gabi says

[Partly, because I simply cannot believe that after what they've been through, after all the lies and machinations they've witnessed, Jim and Sharon can simply accept that the other one is dead. Partly, because I feel tricked as far as the body is concerned. I can understand what the rea

Stephen Sealey says

A thoroughly gripping read. Fascinating.

Yvonne Anagnost says

Fascinating

This book is perfect for the Christmas season, when I read it. It examines the basic premise of Christianity; that Jesus rose from the dead, and what would happen to two thousand years of faith if that were demonstrably untrue. Along the way it discusses the bible, Judaism, Islam, and the politics of the Middle East. Jim Folan, S.J., is a real man who became a priest, not a construct, but a real man who any of us might know. His spiritual and emotional journey through the book is as good as a character on a novel gets.

The ending is a shocker. It's also a warning against false conclusions and over reliance on technology.

I highly recommend this book.

Charles says

As you can see from the cover, the book is about the search of Christ's body. A wonderful book that really makes you think. They've filmed this at some point, although I missed the movie.

Janina s. Asselin says

Interesting story

Interesting story but somewhat hard to follow. Too many characters with back stories that added to the confusion. It does come together by the end with some twists. Unfortunately the characters were not well developed and therefore hard to care about. Choppy writing was a distraction.

David says

Very intriguing and captivating. It includes many of the elements that I like most in a book: espionage, religion, Israel and science. I would have given it 5 stars, except the ending seemed too abrupt and contrived.

Motherbeaver says

Even though this was written over 30 years ago many of the same tensions still exist in Israel and the Middle East. A body is discovered in a tomb beneath the streets of Jerusalem. The body had been crucified and bore the same wounds as Jesus. Is this His body? Lots of interesting facts about history, archaeology, and religion. Overall, I found the book to be tragic, sad, and ironic. Still worth reading.

Laureen Hyman says

It was interesting to read about the different religions in Jerusalem and to think about all the archaeologists go through when finding artifacts and bones. I didn't like the idea that it was Jesus' body but it all turned out ok in the end...

Judith Wrinkle says

Made a person think, about religion but did not convince me of anything new. Took a long time to get thru this book.

Jeff Kaufman says

Very good historical fiction based in Jerusalem. Did an excellent job of portraying the complexity of modern day Israel with religions

Cherish says

Not a smooth read, choppy and hard to keep reading.
