



The Second Coming

John Heubusch

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In this thrilling sequel to *The Shroud Conspiracy*, a child cloned from the blood on the Shroud of Turin has the potential to save the world—or destroy it for good.

When a fallen angel is mistakenly resurrected from the blood of an evil “Watcher” taken from the Shroud of Turin, the fiend’s first gift to the world is an unstoppable plague. Dr. Jon Bondurant, the forensic anthropologist and avowed atheist, joins with devout Domenika Josef to bring another child of the Shroud into the world to save it, this one borne of DNA believed to be that of Jesus Christ. Can this child be the answer to their—and mankind’s—prayers?

His parents are uncertain just who the child is or what he will become, but when he starts demonstrating remarkable powers to heal, they begin to understand that whatever he is, he is not of this world. Might he bring miracles to the world when it needs them the most? Or has science given mankind a tool with which it will destroy itself as the tempting power of the Watcher unfolds?

This globe-spanning chase to uncover the truth and stop a pandemic that just may wipe out humanity once and for all is a fast-paced, explosive thriller.

The Second Coming Details

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Author : John Heubusch

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Richard W. McCuistian says

Brilliantly written - a page turner with lots of twists and surprises, rich and powerful. This book proves that a thriller doesn't have to be laced with foul language to be a great read. The characters are well developed and the plotline well developed - this from a man who had never written a book before "The Shroud Conspiracy" which, as a prequel to this one, is a must-read. As a matter of fact, you should definitely read the prequel before reading this one. It's just as powerful and provides a LOT of necessary background on the characters. I'm usually reading three books at a time, and this one edged the other ones aside. Each time I laid it down, I couldn't wait to get back to it. It's gritty in places because of the nature of the story, but outstanding on every level.

Matt says

John Heubusch stunned me with the opening novel in this series, mixing science and religion to posit what might happen if genetic material could be gleaned from the Shroud of Turin. Continuing where the drama left off, Heybusch furthers the story and explores the fallout of a Revelation-type End of Days situation inches closer to reality. After Dr. Jon Bondurant is able to remove the woman he loves, Domenika Jozef, from the clutches of the Demanian Church, a religious sect keen on pushing human cloning well into the future, they must come to terms with a personal loss. Domenika had been kidnapped and bore what the Demanians thought was the cloned Jesus, after taking DNA samples from the Shroud of Turin. However, a second sample of DNA was found on the Shroud, that of a Watcher, a fallen angel. This Watcher is the child left with the Demanians and who has begun his time on earth causing demonstrable havoc. India has been plagued with a devastating illness with no cure; something that puts the Spanish Flu to shame. With no known cure, health officials the world over are baffled as to how to handle it, as more of the world's population succumbs each day. Knowing that they cannot stand idly by, Jon Bondurant and Domenika Jozef work alongside the Vatican to obtain a 'pure' sample of Jesus' blood to clone their own offspring, the only one who might be able to save the world. Through some less than savoury acts, they are able to bring forth another child in Domenika's womb and she bears this child, whom they call Christopher. As the years pass, Christopher proves to be a miraculous child and one who can perform many acts thought unknown, including curing the baffling illness plaguing India and elsewhere. Jon, Domenika, and Christopher all become targets of the Demanians, who have started to grow in popularity as the Vatican continues to wrestle with the ongoing issue of child abuse. With the Demanians holding their own weapon, the Vatican can do little but hope that Christopher grows into a man that has the ability to hold onto all that is pure. The stage is set for a battle of Good vs. Evil, Catholic Church vs. Demanian Sect, Science vs. Faith. A brilliant follow-up novel that keeps the reader hooked to the very end and leaves a tumultuous ending. Fans of a good religious thriller may enjoy this, though it is not recommended for the truly devout who wish not to have the Catholic Church knocked of its self-developed pedestal once again.

Heubusch used his first novel to present a foundation of science working alongside faith and the strains both possess as they seek to push to their limits. The ending left the door open with the Demanians in possession of a cloned and reborn Watcher, which sounds much more dramatic than the story presents. Now, it is time to see the fallout and how the key characters will move forward to process this and seek to rectify the imbalance. Jon Bondurant and Domenika Jozef are again great protagonists with much depth. Together, they offer the reader a wonderful means of seeing the narrative from the side of Good, though are by no means

united in all regards. Bondurant has a secret, one that might fuel his strong atheistic views and shape the vigorous science-centred beliefs of his past and ongoing research. Domenika knows all about this, though has kept it from the man she loves, a secret sure to rot away at the foundation of their connection. They struggle throughout the piece not only to protect their 'son' Christopher, but to battle the inner demons that have created such a strain. Heubusch develops the Demanian Church more completely in this novel. What was a passing sect in the opening novel has now turned into the centre of a movement to dethrone the Catholic Church entirely. Heubusch weaves this narrative together effectively with key characters on both sides of the battle, all while injecting a flavour of End of Days being on the horizon. The remaining cast fits in nicely, all of whom add flavour and intensity to an already exciting narrative. Heubusch has crafted them perfectly and the reader cannot help but get lost in the well-grounded perspectives offered throughout the novel, which presents the theme from a variety of angles. The narrative does get bogged down at times with details regarding Christian history and Catholic dogma, but the story would not be as captivating with only superficial discussions of these topics. Heubusch has taken the time to get everything in order, creating a timely story at a time when Good and Evil seems to be ever-present. While some may look at the dust cover, the title, or even my summary and feel this is something that could only be enjoyed by the devout who want to hear all about their Saviour. It is not a 'born-again' piece of fiction with Jesus saving us all and the author injecting their own sermon on how to be saved in time. Rather, it takes much of the Christian foundation of End of Days and explores it through some strong arguments geared towards those who love a well-paced thriller. With a rapid pace and some subplots that demand answers, Heubusch shows that he has an excellent handle on his writing and can captivate the reader in short order.

Kudos, Mr. Heubusch, for another great piece that keeps the reader hooked. I can only hope there is more to come from you soon.

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