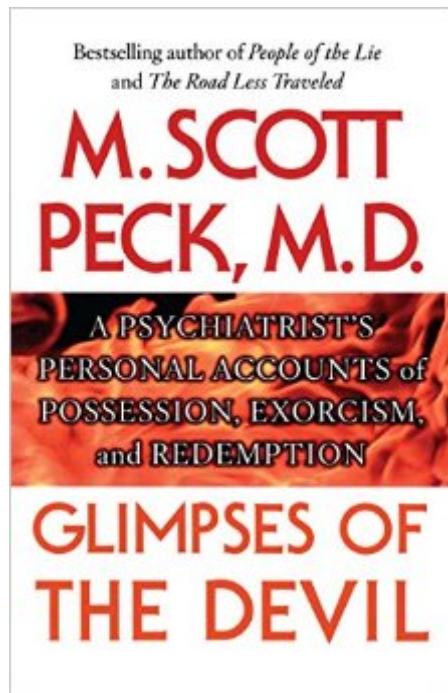


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Glimpses Of The Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts Of Possession, Exorcism, And Redemption



Synopsis

The legendary bestselling author and renowned psychiatrist M. Scott Peck, whose books have sold over 14 million copies, reveals the amazing true story of his work as an exorcist -- kept secret for more than twenty-five years -- in two profoundly human stories of satanic possession. In the tradition of his million-copy bestseller *People of the Lie: The Hope for Healing Human Evil*, Scott Peck's new book offers the first complete account of exorcism and possession by a modern psychiatrist in this extraordinary personal narrative of his efforts to heal patients suffering from demonic and satanic possession. For the first time, Dr. Peck discusses his experience in conducting exorcisms, sharing the spellbinding details of his two major cases: one a moving testament to his healing abilities, and the other a perilous and ultimately unsuccessful struggle against darkness and evil. Twenty-seven-year-old Jersey was of average intelligence; a caring and devoted wife and mother to her husband and two young daughters, she had no history of mental illness. Beccah, in her mid-forties and with a superior intellect, had suffered from profound depression throughout her life, choosing to remain in an abusive relationship with her husband, one dominated by distrust and greed. Until the day Dr. Peck first met the young woman called Jersey, he did not believe in the devil. In fact, as a mature, highly experienced psychiatrist, he expected that this case would resolve his ongoing effort to prove to himself, as scientifically as possible, that there were absolutely no grounds for such beliefs. Yet what he discovered could not be explained away simply as madness or by any standard clinical diagnosis. Through a series of unanticipated events, Dr. Peck found himself thrust into the role of exorcist, and his desire to treat and help Jersey led him down a path of blurred boundaries between science and religion. Once there, he came face-to-face with deeply entrenched evil and ultimately witnessed the overwhelming healing power of love. In *Glimpses of the Devil*, Dr. Peck's celebrated gift for integrating psychiatry and religion is demonstrated yet again as he recounts his journey from skepticism to eventual acknowledgment of the reality of an evil spirit, even at the risk of being shunned by the medical establishment. In the process, he also finds himself compelled to confront the larger paradox of free will, of a commitment to goodness versus enslavement to the forms of evil, and the monumental clash of forces that endangers both sanity and the soul. *Glimpses of the Devil* is unquestionably among Scott Peck's most powerful, scrupulously written, and important books in many years. At once deeply sensitive and intensely chilling, it takes a clear-eyed look at one of the most mysterious and misunderstood areas of human experience.

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Customer Reviews

It took great courage to write this book. I don't say this superficially, but only after a patient, thorough reading. There are those who will deny this book as rubbish because of their own preconceptions. I don't blame them. You cannot expect everyone to accept this sort of reality that is so purposely and aggressively hidden. Dr. Peck seems to have a clear understanding of this and does not try to convert the reader into a believer of demons and possession. He simply, and very clinically, shares his experience rather than just hides it away. He only asks people to be open minded. I appreciate his efforts and there is nothing in these pages to make me think he is making any of it up. In comparing my own experience with Dr. Peck's, much of what he described in these pages has the ring of truth (to me) although not without some things I dismiss as unintentional red herrings. Dr. Peck is only telling it as he saw it. However, I cannot recommend this book as a manual of exorcism or endorse it as containing the right approach to dealing with this sort of demonic oppression in a person. Dr. Peck admits incomplete success in his efforts with the team of people who assisted him in the experiences he describes. The initial successes were not followed up adequately according to my understanding and experience with this sort of thing. Dr. Peck and

his team(s) showed that they were indeed able to dislodge the 'tumor' but restored to psychiatry and psychology to loosely apply the 'wound dressing' to the soul. As the accounts unfold, I am not at all surprised by the eventual outcomes, but I feel the accounts are nonetheless valuable. I give this book five stars because of the raw and courageous honesty of the author, his skillful and engaging writing style, and his thoroughness.

I read M.Scott Peck's "Glimpses of the Devil" over a 24 hour period, something I don't do with books that aren't "interesting." I could hardly put it down. Anyone who read "People of the Lie" will remember one of the final, gripping chapters on possession and demonology, in which Peck makes brief mention of his attendance at two exorcisms. This book is the long-awaited (in my case, at least) in-depth description of those two exorcisms. We meet the victims, learn about their lives up to and following Peck's work with them, and - as far as this skeptical "wanna-believer" is concerned - quite possibly meet Satan. When a doctor as committed to the scientific method as Peck - who initially interviewed the first victim with the intention of proving to himself that there was no Devil - states unequivocally that he felt the presence of something inhuman in the room where he and his team were treating the victim, I find myself inclined to believe him. The prior reviewer criticizes Peck "for failing to make his cases interesting by weaving personal histories of the victims" with an analysis of why an evil spirit would be interested in them in the first place. I frankly don't know what this reviewer is talking about; Peck spends a great deal of time speculating (which is all one can really do when it comes to a matter such as possession) as to how his two patients became possessed, why they were chosen, why, in fact, some people become possessed and others don't. As far as his being smug and arrogant for taking on the role of exorcist after only a few years as a Christian, the previous reviewer fails to mention that Peck ASKED Malachi Martin to do the exorcism, but Malachi refused; and he then searched for as long as he could to find an experienced exorcist.

In his final tome, Scott Peck returns to the dark and controversial topic of satanic possession. The book is a case report of two women who underwent exorcisms in the 1980s. Jersey Babcock, a Connecticut mother in her late 20's, and Rebeccah Armitage, a 45-year-old multimillionaire from The Big Apple. One exorcism was successful, one was not. Though some critique the book as theatrical, I don't find the accounts overly dramatic. Portraits do not fly off living room walls, there is no apparition of demons in physical form, no full moon that drips blood or half moon, crescent moon or even new moon mentioned (and I know this without even using books.google.com, because I

read the whole book). Further, Peck contends that the Roman Catholic Church's traditional symptom checklist for demonic possession is overzealous, permitting an exorcism only with present paranormal symptomology such as levitation, psychokinesis (to move objects with one's mind), a psychic knowledge of the future, or fluent speech and comprehension of foreign languages to which the patient has never been exposed. Peck contends, "these criteria are so unrealistically strict that they would deny an exorcism to the majority of victims genuinely possessed by the demonic." Though not incontrovertible, there was evidence of satanic possession in Peck's cases. For instance, the women believed themselves to be possessed, they heard voices, and (most notably) a battery of psychiatric interviews and psychological tests found them to not be suffering any type of schizophrenic or psychotic disorder. Therefore, in contrast to R-Catholic policy, Peck bases diagnosis through a medical paradigm stating "physicians are taught that the best way to make diagnosis is usually through a process of exclusion.

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