



Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism, and Redemption

By M. Scott Peck

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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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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

When M. Scott Peck wrote *People of the Lie* in 1983 he offered readers a fascinating glimpse into the human face of evil. His spiritual/psychological profile of people who were narcissistic as well as evil was especially disturbing because so many of us have faced relatives, co-workers, and even spouses with this destructive combination. However, one of his most chilling chapters in that book was titled "Of Possession and Exorcism," in which he explored an even more sinister form of evil—the possibility that the devil and smaller demonic spirits could entrench themselves into a human's soul. That chapter briefly described two clients who Peck believed were possessed by the devil. Ultimately he performed an exorcism with each client.

In *Glimpses of the Devil*, Peck returns to this dark and controversial chapter, expanding upon his beliefs in demonic possession. Like many science-educated professionals, Peck was a skeptic when it came to believing in the devil. But here he gives readers the complete story of his conversion as well as a full account of the two clinical cases that made him a believer as well as an exorcist. Because he videotaped the exorcisms, the dialog and scene work is stunningly authentic and convincing.

Some have criticized this discussion as disappointingly dry. One might argue that Peck's restraint when it comes to dramatics and sensationalism is this book's strength. Peck's mission is not to entertain, but rather to request a more expansive discussion of evil, so that science entertains the possibility of the devil and demonic entities. He also hopes that we will begin a serious discussion of interventions against demonic possession that aren't limited to the restraints of the Catholic Church.

Fans of Peck may also discover an unexpected gift within this controversial discussion. Peck is now an elder. Once a best-selling icon, he is aging into humbleness, comfortably admitting his mistakes and arrogance when it came to those early exorcisms. This softness and humility seem to elevate his authority, and we can only hope that he will offer more books from this voice in the years to come. --Gail Hudson

From Publishers Weekly

In his 1983 bestseller, *People of the Lie*, Peck devoted a chapter to exorcism. In this astonishing new book, the megaselling author of *The Road Less Traveled* reveals his work as an exorcist and attempts to establish a science of exorcism for future research. Peck knows that many readers will be skeptical of or flummoxed by his report, and thus he emphasizes that he himself scoffed at the idea of demonic possession before encountering Jersey Babcock; Peck became involved in her case mostly to "prove the devil's nonexistence as scientifically as possible." But a comment by Jersey at their first meeting "blew the thing wide open." Jersey, a Texas resident who believed she was possessed and who was neglecting her children as a result, said that her demons were "really rather weak and pathetic creatures"—a statement so at odds with, as Peck puts it, "standard psychopathology" that his mind began to change. Peck describes two cases in this book, that of Jersey and the more difficult case of Beccah Armitage, a middle-aged woman who grew up in an abusive family, married an abusive husband and was practicing self-mutilation when Peck took her case. Both cases result in full-blown exorcisms with Peck as the lead exorcist, and both, according to Peck, involved paranormal phenomena, including Beccah acquiring a snakelike appearance. Peck intersperses his calm but dramatic recitation of these cases with set-off commentary, and he concludes the book with a reasoned proposal for a science of exorcism ("An exorcism is a massive therapeutic intervention to liberate, teach, and support the victim to choose to reject the devil"). A report from what is to most of us a strange and distant

land, Scott's book probably won't convince crowds, but it's powerful and concisely written enough to interest many, and maybe to give a few pause for thought. (*Jan. 19*)

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From [Booklist](#)

When famous-name, prepublication endorsements were solicited for Peck's first book, the subsequent perennial best-seller *The Road Less Traveled* (1978), only Malachi Martin responded. Who? thought Peck, and proceeded to find and read Martin's then latest book, *Hostage to the Devil* (1976), about five exorcisms of modern Americans. Increasingly concerned with the existence of human evil but not then believing in the devil, Peck sought Martin out and made one of the most crucial acquaintances of his life. Because of Martin's firm, gentle influence, Peck was baptized a Christian (nondenominational, he stresses) and eventually became principal exorcist in two cases encountered in the course of his psychiatric practice. This book reports diagnosis, exorcism, and follow-up in each case. Jersey, a young mother who was neglecting her small children and becoming absorbed in a New Age cult, was referred to Peck as possibly possessed. Wealthy self-made businesswoman Beccah, 45, was a singularly intransigent long-term patient of Peck's who he concluded was possessed. Both women's exorcisms incorporated the Roman Catholic ritual of exorcism, and both were undertaken by teams of six or more persons--fewer, Peck says, is risky, as Beccah's exorcism in particular convinced him--and were videotaped. Both succeeded, but one didn't stick. Peck's accounts of them are riveting, and his analysis of each is perspicacious enough and humble enough on his part to cause, perhaps, believers and skeptics of the devil alike to deepen and reevaluate their positions. *Ray Olson*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Chapman:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are reading whatever they have because their hobby will be reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism, and Redemption.

Jamie Treat:

The book untitled Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism, and Redemption is the book that recommended to you to learn. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to you actually. The language that article author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The author was did a lot of study when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism, and Redemption from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

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Robert Clark:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This particular book Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism, and Redemption was colorful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Glimpses of the Devil: A Psychiatrist's Personal Accounts of Possession, Exorcism, and Redemption has many kinds or type. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading that.

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