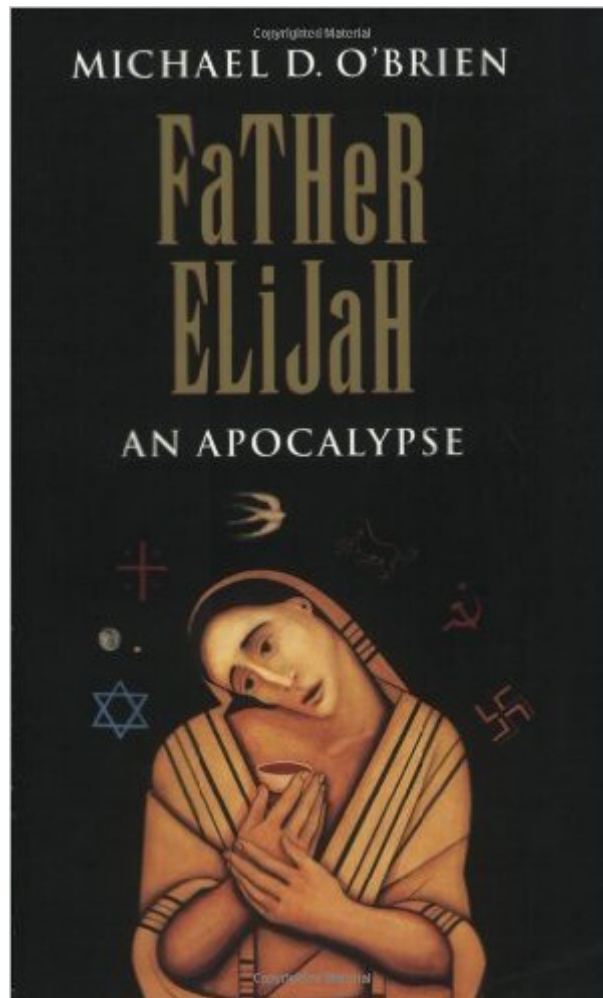


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Father Elijah: An Apocalypse



Synopsis

Michael O'Brien presents a thrilling apocalyptic novel about the condition of the Roman Catholic Church at the end of time. It explores the state of the modern world, and the strengths and weaknesses of the contemporary religious scene, by taking his central character, Father Elijah Schafer, a Carmelite priest, on a secret mission for the Vatican which embroils him in a series of crises and subterfuges affecting the ultimate destiny of the Church. Father Elijah is a convert from Judaism, a survivor of the Holocaust, a man once powerful in Israel. For twenty years he has been "buried in the dark night of Carmel" on the mountain of the prophet Elijah. The Pope and the Cardinal Secretary of State call him out of obscurity and give him a task of the highest sensitivity: to penetrate into the inner circles of a man whom they believe may be the Antichrist. Their purpose: to call the Man of Sin to repentance, and thus to postpone the great tribulation long enough to preach the Gospel to the whole world. In this richly textured tale, Father Elijah crosses Europe and the Middle East, moves through the echelons of world power, meets saints and sinners, presidents, judges, mystics, embattled Catholic journalists, faithful priests and a conspiracy of traitors within the very House of God. This is an apocalypse in the old literary sense, but one that was written in the light of Christian revelation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reading this book has been a spiritual experience for me. Only a few times in my life have I found myself reading a book that slowly penetrated the self-protective layers of my soul, and that led me at times to put it aside and just sort of groan in prayer. I am a Protestant, but reading this book makes

me wish I were a Catholic. Roman Catholicism is so maligned in our day. The news media disclose scandal after scandal in the Church. Father Elijah does not deify the Church; indeed, it is very much aware that even the most committed Catholics, including those in the highest echelons of the Church's magisterium, are subject to the very same foibles and temptations that all human beings are--and even more so because they have an enemy of the soul eager to see them turn in on themselves instead of outward toward others. In reading this novel, though, I found myself powerfully attracted to the historic Roman Church as we see her spread throughout time and space. Like Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism has crucial features that most varieties of Protestantism lack: a deep intellectual engagement with contemporary culture, a theology of the Cross and solidarity with the weak ones of this world, and a tradition of contemplative prayer and worship. I found myself strangely drawn to the main character in this work, mainly because the Carmelite priest Elijah bears in his whole being the marks of the Crucified One. One might almost say that Jesus Christ is really the central character of the story. He is at once the risen, exalted Lord and the Suffering Servant, with a heart of love that aches and throbs for communion with the whole creation -- a very real person whose presence in our midst is most evident, and most efficacious, in our weakness.

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