



Ain't No Messiah

Mark Tullius

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“God has chosen Joshua to bring forth his new kingdom on Earth.”

From the day he was born, Joshua has found himself the recipient of death-defying miracles. His earliest memories include his own father proclaiming him the second coming of Christ. However, Joshua has wrestled with serious doubts about the validity of this claim all his life. How could he not, having survived a childhood filled with physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his earthly father. Now, one way or another, Joshua is going to show the world who he really is.

This book is intended for a mature audience and contains graphic sex and violence.

This is the first book in the five-book series.

Ain't No Messiah Details

Date :

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Author : Mark Tullius

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From Reader Review Ain't No Messiah for online ebook

Literary says

Ain't No Messiah by Mark Tullius is a dark and intriguing novel about the life of Joshua Campbell. Set in the United States, it's a tale of his life, from birth to adulthood. Significant family members such as his mother, father and brother walk some of his journey with him as well as childhood friends that reappear in early adulthood. Estranged family members are in his mind all the while and readers meet them briefly as he tries to connect with them.

Having almost died at birth, Joshua's father labelled him the messiah. His father continues to use this label throughout Joshua's unusual life; citing near death experiences as miracles. His father publishes books about him and fashions a new church and business on the miracles of the messiah. Despite calling him the messiah, he verbally and emotionally abuses and neglects him on a regular basis. Joshua consistently refuses to believe he is the messiah and begins to rebel against his father's rules. Eventually, at 17 he decides to run away, and experiences the world in a new light, but finds he still can't shake the title of Messiah.

As the story progresses it is unclear whether he seeks out trouble, or trouble seeks him out, and this grey area is what kept me engaged throughout the story. Joshua is dragged into a world of sex and drugs, but he still has to run from his label as the messiah and his tyrannical father. As Joshua is pulled deeper into this world it becomes unclear who he can trust and things turn into a life and death situation. This reminded me of how Stephen King sets up his stories to deliver poignant ideas through simple prose.

Ain't No Messiah kept me engrossed until the very end. As I read I kept questioning whether Joshua would break free forever from his father, or if he would be tempted by the life of fame and comparative comfort? At times I questioned his life choices and whether he could trust the people he aligned with. The main characters were well developed and believable. However, I felt there were far too many minor characters in the story that kept entering and disappearing. At times it became difficult to keep track of who was who. This detracted from the overall story as I had to pause and try to remember who the character was and why they were important to the story. The transition between flashbacks to past events and present day were clear at the start of the book, however near the end they became less clear which also distracted from the overall continuity. Overall this is an interesting and well written book that delivers a thought provoking message by putting a fascinating character in evocative situations that beg one to reflect on the choices we all make in life.

Elisha Roberts says

This novel has a very interesting concept of a religious cult, where the leader is someone's child. Instead of Joshua's father claiming to be the Messiah and using Joshua's unusual birth as proof. He claimed that Joshua is the Messiah.

Watching Joshua grow up in this cult, where he was expected to be perfect, and god-like. To "give judgment" and to forgive those who followed their beliefs was intriguing. It would've been one thing to have him grow up in a cult solely focused on his father. However, having their cult beliefs based on him, whether he wanted it or not made Joshua more relatable as a character.

One thing I found interesting was how this novel takes place in modern times, and yet Joshua never went to a school of any kind until their father added a schoolhouse onto the church. It wasn't until he adventured into the world outside of the cult and slowly learned how things worked in the real world.

Although Joshua has vehemently denied his father's "gospel" that he is the Messiah. When he is defending himself, or reacting to negative outside forces. He says that he's "casting judgment" or "the fist of God" has judged those who had wronged Joshua or those he cared about.

Before Joshua ran away from home, his father brainwashed him to believe there are millions of bad people in the world who wanted Joshua dead. He also made Joshua believe that all the tragedies in the world, like 9/11, the war in Iraq, and mass shootings were his fault.

Although, you want to believe that there's at least one person in the world who is kind without taking advantage of Joshua's "slowness" or "gullibility". However, this novel takes that and makes sure Joshua doesn't get a sense of kindness or just in this world.

I felt the ending was justified and fulfilling. The ending provokes emotions of all kinds, from sadness to anger, and even peacefulness. Things end in a way that finishes everything but leaves just enough open to have a sequel. This novel is apart of a series called "The Blessed and Broken". Of course, I am interested in reading more from this series and Mark Tullius' other works as well.

I would recommend this novel for those who want a dark and thought-provoking "coming of age" story. Also, if you enjoy novels about cults, this is the novel for you.

Chris N says

Joshua was born dead. His father, Charles, begged God to let his child live and if he did he would make sure that Joshua would dedicate his life to God. So begins a life of obedience and violence.

Charles was so single minded that his son was the second coming of Christ he made Joshua's life a living misery. Charles ruled the roost and controlled his family to the point of fear. He created a church dedicated to spreading the word that the Messiah has come and even created The Lost Gospels, a series of stories he created about Jesus and Joshua. He brainwashed Joshua into thinking he is the Messiah. As time goes on he escapes his life at home and begins a journey of trying to outrun his father and his 'legacy' of being the Messiah.

I have to say that there is a lot of time spent on Joshua's childhood. How his father bullied his family into the church he created, the series accidents that befall Joshua that by rights, in some cases, should have killed him but don't. It was a bit slow going to get through that section.

As the book progresses it does get easier to fall into the story. What I got from this is that it's a journey of self discovery, as well as a father who is not only greedy for fame but also for money. Is Joshua the Messiah? Well that is the crux of it... I will leave that bit up to you to decide.

A slow start with an explosive ending. This won't be everyone's cup of tea, that's for sure, but it is a good story that leaves you wanting more.

ARC provided by author in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Terrie Leigh Relf says

A Review of Ain't No Messiah by Mark Tullius

By Terrie Leigh Relf

As usual, Mark Tullius weaves a dark and disturbing psychological tale. Ironies abound, too, which you will discover upon meeting and following Joshua on his journey of self-exploration and discovery. No spoilers—that said, just imagine being born into a "religious" family where your father, the minister, has decreed that you are the Messiah. Not only that, but he's built up an entire church and written scripture to promote this!

Where will Joshua's trials and tribulations take him? Is he the Messiah? Or, is Joshua just a man with a megalomaniac for a father who sees him as a ticket, if not to heaven, then worldwide dominance and wealth?

This action-packed novel compels you to enter—and remain in—the inner sanctum to bear witness to the depravity of those involved with this church. Some material may not be for the squeamish . . .

Author sent me ARC to read for review.

Dave says

When the Messiah arrives perhaps it will not be on a chariot pulled by fiery steeds, but in the backwoods of South Carolina. And perhaps the true believers might only consist of his father and a handful of faithful. Joshua is a most unusual lead character in a most unusual story that harnesses religion, Mixed Martial Arts, pornography, and coming of age. He is a reluctant Messiah though he was anointed by his father at an early age well before his religion became a worldwide phenomenon. There are parallels to Heinlein's Michael Valentine particularly in the carnival scenes and the harnessing of religious fervor. The story ultimately is about control and independence and destiny and free will. At its best are the stories of Joshua's bumbling adventures as he finds his way through the world.
