



TUCKER MALARKEY

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A lost past. A hidden Gospel. A shocking discovery.

It's 1948, and British nurse Gemma Bastian travels to Cairo to close the affairs of her late father, staying at the home of David Lazar, her father's oldest friend, and his enigmatic sons. While she's there she stumbles across her father's last and most closely guarded archaeological project, one that could change the Christian world forever: the discovery of the legendary Lost Gospels. Torn between two brothers and beset by ominous warnings, Gemma finds herself caught in an intricate web of love and betrayal where she fights to resurrect her own shattered life and a faith that was lost to all of humanity.

Resurrection Details

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From Reader Review Resurrection for online ebook

Lia Heath says

Reminded me a bit of a Dan Brown novel, but slower paced. I found myself always waiting for a climax but never getting it. Still, I am fascinated by the subject matter of a Gnostic-based Christianity that has been buried by the church. And Egypt was a great setting for the story.

Brittany says

This is the second time I have read Resurrection. The first time I would have given it five stars solely based on content. I've said it to many people and I will say it again: This book completely changed my way of thinking. I honestly had no idea that any other gospels existed until I read Resurrection and I think that is a complete shame. Even though this is a novel and a work of fiction, it changed my faith and made it so much stronger. As far as the actual story, it is intriguing and made me eager to find out what would happen next. I will say, though, that I had a hard time believing that Gemma would find anyway to be attracted to Michael because he was a complete jerk all the time. I understand that Gemma was a nurse and so she was trying to help a man who was dying but I could find no charm in Michael whatsoever and I think that if the author wanted Gemma and Michael to have a connection she could have made it more believable. It just seemed forced to me. I did love the relationship that Gemma and Anthony had and even though there was always distance between them there was also something you could believe in. With that being said, I do think that this is a great book and I will, I'm sure, read it countless times in the future and continue to recommend it to my family and friends whenever the situation presents itself. As for me, I have gotten my hands on a published and translated book containing the Dead Sea Scrolls and am planning on buying the Nag Hammadi texts as well so I can gain some more knowledge of what the full picture of Christianity is.

Danielle says

A admit - a ridiculous last name - Malarkey!/? but wonderful - brings you into a roving tale about Egypt and archaeology during the second WW.

Joyce says

Okay I hated DaVinci code. It was mindless, contrived, silly, and anyone who knows any history would find it absurd. I needed to say that because the idiotic blurb on Resurrection calls this a thinking person's DaVinci code. Which misses the point on so many levels it hurts my brain. Suffice to say that people will be led to expect a quick-paced novel (DaVinci Code) that actually understands history and has a plot that holds together. But Resurrection is NOT that book. So many people will be disappointed by Resurrection based on that blurb.

In fact, that blurb almost made me avoid Resurrection, but I decided it was stupid publishing house tricks and happily got past it. Thank goodness I did.

I really loved this book a lot. It's got a quiet feeling, but it moves the way a river flows. I read it quickly and found myself not wanting it to end. But it is not a thriller.

It certainly stimulated my interest in the Nag Hammadi gospels and has led me off on another book-buying research trip to find out more. I like books that do that. I also admit that I adore Egypt and books on Egypt. If you really liked this book, I highly recommend Ahdaf Souief, particularly her book "In the Eye of the Sun", which takes place in a similar time (earlier in the century if I remember correctly) but has a similar feel. It's not about Christianity however.

I had 2 thoughts about this book. One is a nit. These are supposed to be British characters, and yet one character describes baba ghanoush to another as being made with eggplant. Eggplant is an American word. The Brits use the French word, aubergine. That just stuck out to me and irritated me, but it's a nit and the editors' fault really.

The other thing that bothered me was the relationship between Gemma and Michael. It wasn't that I didn't believe it, but I personally have no patience/time for wounded/broken men. I don't have the co-dependent caretaker mentality, so I mostly wanted to smack Michael through the book.

SPOILER here (don't read further) - It is Anthony that runs off into the desert to save Gemma, not Michael, and I pretty much thought that said all that needed to be said about the character of the 2 men. I didn't think there was a choice between Michael and Anthony, it was obvious as day is long to me. END SPOILER

One last thought, I tried to recommend this to a friend (she is Catholic, but I was raised Catholic as well) as I thought she'd be interested but the minute I mentioned the Nag Hammadi gospels she shut down and said it was all nonsense. That surprised me in 2009. However, it just reinforced the actions of some of the characters in the book.

Kurt says

I picked this book up because I'm fascinated by early Christianity and it's myth, and antiquity in general, and I love novels where educated people couch their story in the frame of history - I found it to be overall not an un-enjoyable read, but a bit disappointing.

Perhaps my perspective of Malarkey's effort at the novel is askew since I've read many of the Nag-Hammadi texts (and find them not as mysterious as she tries to make them) and many of the acknowledged sources for her book (which sometimes tell a better story, though that may be unfair since commentaries & histories are not burdened with contrivance and plot and the need for overt creativity).

I felt her conclusions about the texts in the story were manufactured and reaching, and thus weakened the novel in general. As a result the tension felt forced and feigned throughout, which was frustrating. I'm willing to concede though that it maybe part of the point and reflects the broader reality of the Nag-Hammadi find: the Gnostic Gospels as a concept should be at least a little bit ground breaking to most people of faith, but still to this day elicit mostly a briefly raised eyebrow followed by a yawn. Read the actual texts if you have the chance. A bit obtuse, but lovely as verse.

The novel is entertainment, but ultimately not lost to me is the irony that I may have more enjoyed a novel about gnosticism if I knew less.

Val says

Thought provoking historical novel set after WWII in Egypt, dealing with the discovery of the "Lost Gospels" at Nag Hamadi and how they may offer an expanded/controversial view of Christianity that includes women in a central leadership role. Explores the complex and capricious way history is actually written, with "facts" a matter of opinion and arrangement. Will remind you of "Da Vinci Code" but not as much of a page turner. (The love story subplot was secondary for me, but was interesting in exploring how victims(military and non-military) of war try to resume life in "ordinary" times.)

Dele Haynes says

Resurrection is a fictionalized look at the discovery of the Nag Hammadi Library. The library was Gnostic text that had been hidden away after Athanasius of Alexandria had called for the destruction of all non-canon texts. They were rediscovered in 1945. Who ever hidden these books saved gospels from the early Christian Church. Perhaps written even earlier than the gospels that are part of the current bible.

Gemma Bastion flies to Egypt after receiving a telex telling her that her father had died. Gemma thought she was in Egypt to take care of her father's affairs, but began to suspect that her father might have been murdered. Perhaps a clue is the last letter she received from her father that enclosed an ancient papyrus with a strange language written on it. Also, the priests that seem interested in what her father had found.

Putting the pieces together of her father's life in Egypt, Gemma discovers parts of ancient Gnostic text. Several that give a different look at women's place in the early church, especially the significance of Mary Magdalene. As Gemma looks for the rest of the text the mystery gets deeper. Who has the library and why does the church want to hide it away.

I was hoping for a meatier story on the discovery of the Nag Hammadi Library. She didn't go into a lot of detail. Resurrection did wet my appetite to do some more research.

Mabeo says

I REALLY enjoyed this book, I don't know why I wouldn't put it as a 5 actually, probably a 4.5. Great writing, though I had a tough time with the 1940s thing most of the time because the main character is such an independent woman. I think its supposed to be because of the war, and actually reminds me of my grandmother a bit. Either way a great read about Egypt and the concepts of Christ's origins. Of course I don't agree with all the theology here but very interesting none the less. One of the reviewers described it as a "thinking man's DaVinci Code" I would go with that. But expect it to be more thinking, less action thriller. Great read.

Susan says

The topic was interesting (the lost gospels) and the setting had potential (Cairo) but the heroine and characters were predictable, unbelievable, or stereotypical. I was disappointed, but finished it anyway. Read it if you don't have anything else handy, but don't go out and buy it.

Morana Mazor says

"Uskrsnu'e", T. Malarkey; prava je avanturisti?ka knjiga, kakve ja volim povremeno pro?itati.. Egzoti?ne lokacije, tajni artefakti, vožnje Nilom pa devom kroz pustinju... baš mi je pasalo... no?as... u iš?ekivanju kiše.. :)

Malo o radnji; neposredno nakon 2.svj. rata Emma Bastian leti iz Londona u Egipat saznajući da joj je otac, arheolog, prona?en mrtav. Naravno, tata je za sobom ostavio razne tragove, sakrivene poruke, a sve s ciljem da se izgubljena evan?elja iz Nag Hamadija objave svijetu, budu?i da bi to poprili?no uzdrimalo dogme katoli?ke crkve.. Jedno je evan?elje bilo ?ak po Mariji Magdaleni!? Što je najbolje, knjiga je temeljena na istinitim doga?ajima, jer su ti spisi nestali odlukom rane crkve prije skoro 2 tis. godina, da bi onda bili ponovno prona?eni 40-ih god. prošlog stolje?a. Naravno, oko tih je doga?a autorica ispreplela pri?u o ratu, vjeri, ljubavi koja se baš lagano i sa zanimanjem, ?ita. Pa eto, ako ste se poželjeli malo avanture, makar ove fiktivne, Uskrsnu'e je dobar izbor štiva.

Jaclyn says

I ended up enjoying *Resurrection* despite its slow start. The book follows Gemma Bastin as she travels to Egypt to settle the affairs of her recently deceased father. Upon arriving in Cairo, Gemma is taken in by her father's friend, David Lazar. Gemma stays at the Lazar's home getting to know the family, including David's two son's Michael and Anthony. While clearing her father's office, Gemma begins to discover what her father, an archaeologist, was working on; the location of lost scriptures that would change the face of Christianity. Gemma becomes as immersed in this mystery as her father, despite Anthony attempts to dissuade her from looking deeper (it seems her father's death may not have been an accident). However, Gemma follows the clues and finds the answers that she is looking for.

While I was expecting this book to be more along the lines of the movie, *The Mummy* and got something more like *The DaVinci Code*, I still really enjoyed the novel once Gemma really started to delve into the mystery of what her father was working on when he died. I thought the novel was very well-written and had an extremely atmospheric tone to it. I would recommend this novel to those that like the questioning of history and how history, like something like Christianity, has been shaped by those that write it - a very interesting concept in the novel.

Patricia Uttaro says

Growing up in an Irish Catholic family in the 1960s and 70s was an experience steeped in church-every-Sunday, frilly white communion dresses, tiny silver crucifixes on delicate little chains, nuns enveloped in billowing habits, and don't-you-dare-lean-your-behind-on-the-pew-when-you're-kneeling instructions from

Mom & Dad. I can tell you with much certainty that the Catholic Catechism I used in Sr. Paul Regina's religion class sure didn't have anything in it about the Gnostic Gospels.

As I've aged, I, like many of my contemporaries, have lost a little faith in the teachings of the Catholic Church. It's not so much a loss of faith but a real questioning of the things I was taught so many years ago. So I naturally gravitate to books that deal with themes that question the same things I question. In this case, that questioning involves the authority of the four gospels of the New Testament, and the place in history and faith of the Gnostic Gospels, or New Testament apocrypha.

Resurrection is a fictionalized account of the discovery of the Nag Hammadi gospels in post World War II Egypt. Gemma Bastian, our intrepid heroine, is a war-damaged nurse who lived through the Blitz in London which killed her mother and destroyed her home. Shortly after the war ends, her father, a Biblical archaeologist, is found in his Cairo office, dead of an apparent heart attack. Shortly after being informed of his death, Gemma receives a mysterious letter from him that sends her to Cairo on a mission. As she discovers more about her father's work, it becomes clear that he had discovered something that would rewrite the history of Christianity. The story follows Gemma as she slowly pieces together the last days of her father's life and culminates in her possession of the Nag Hammadi gospels.

This reminded me very much of early Elizabeth Peters fiction, which owes a lot to the gothic romances so popular in the 1960s and 70s, and which evolved into the inimitable Amelia Peabody series. The three primary characters — Gemma, Michael and Anthony (the two brothers who vie for her attention) are colorful and well drawn, but the real action in the story involves the discovery of the gospels, what they contain, and what happens to them. Malarkey's story whet my appetite enough that I'm currently reading the scholarly works on the Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels. I realize that my father, who spent the first part of his young adulthood in the seminary, is probably spinning in his grave, but I have to say that what I'm reading is making me re-connect with the basis of my Christian belief. And that's not a bad thing.

Lynn Wilson says

This book has been described as "The Thinking person's DaVinci Code" and I would concur. Both novels deal with the suppression of the feminine within the teachings of the Christian Church. Resurrection deals directly with the discover of the gnostic gospels in Nag Hammadi and incorporates historical material. It's a fascinating read as a novel and educational as well. I love the combination of the two!

Ginnie Leiner says

...isolation is not the answer. We must be braver than that...God exists in the space between us, when we reach out for each other. We find him when we seek each other."

A lovely story about haunted, damaged people looking for answers in post WWII Cairo and the true story of the discovery of the Gnostic Gospels. Beautifully written with the sparseness of the desert in which it takes place. All that is superficial is scoured away leaving only the essential. What is God, how do we find him, what is his message to us? Like THE DAVINCI CODE, it seeks the role of women in the founding of

Christianity and asks why they disappeared. Will such books change the Catholic Church? Are we witnessing the beginning of a sea change that may take more than our lifetimes to accomplish?

A very thoughtful book, beautifully written.

Alice says

A bit slow at times and somewhat contrived. I am reading it because I am going to Egypt next week - a good plane read.

I found this book slow paced and going nowhere plotwise. The last third of the book is a bit better. The romances are quite ridiculous as are other events - contrived and stretching the feminist point. The only part I enjoyed is the history and some of the culture. Not really recommended.
