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Raleigh man writes *Absence of Faith*, a new novel with a twist of faith

RALEIGH, NC - Anthony Samuel Policastro of North Raleigh has published his first novel, *Absence of Faith*, involving a mystery that causes the highly religious residents of a small coastal town to lose their faith.

Here is an interview with the author.

Q. Where do you get your ideas for a book?

ASP: I'm always thinking of what ifs. What if a plane going overhead suddenly crashed on a busy interstate during rush hour? What would that be like? What if someone launched a program on the Internet that caused people to change how they thought of a certain group of people?

I guess this goes back to my curiosity as a kid. I was always interested in how things work, what makes them work and why they do the things they do. I still have that curiosity. I like to push the envelope and see what happens, and then I know how and why things work the way they do. One of my favorite web sites is How Stuff Works. Sometimes I think that site was made for me.



Q. How did you come up with the idea for *Absence of Faith*?

ASP: I had just finished my first novel and my wife and I were discussing story ideas for the next book when we came up with the idea for *Absence of Faith*. What would you do if you lost your belief in religion, your belief in God and thought everything was hopeless? What if you lost something that was extremely important to you? What would you do? These are the questions addressed in the novel.

Q. How did you come up with the plot for *Absence of Faith*?

ASP: I always start out with a basic concept, a unique what if situation and let the plot evolve from there. I've tried outlining the plot chapter by chapter and found it

too constricting on my creativity. I found myself trying to fit the characters into the plot rather than letting the characters create the plot for me.

Q. The characters create the plot for you? How does that work?

ASP: Each character has unique qualities and traits and when you put that character into a specific situation, he or she will react in a certain way. If you have a character that is very stubborn and you put him in a situation where he is faced with a multiple of decisions, he will most likely pick the decision that he knows works rather than the right decision. His actions then drive the plot forward. For every action there is a reaction.

Q. Why did you write this book?

ASP: I have wanted to write a novel since I was 17, but when I sat down to write, I had nothing to say. I hadn't lived long enough; I didn't have enough life experiences to write anything outside of myself.

I wrote this book to communicate an idea; to let people into the unique way I view the world. I love to communicate to people information that helps them or enlightens them. I like to invent unique situations, characters and see how people react to them with laughter, sadness, elation, surprise or delight. I'm thrilled when that happens.

Q. Do you think you have a bestseller?

ASP: Yes, in light of all the interest in spirituality and religion that was spawned by *The DaVinci Code* and other books, the movie and the controversy that erupted. My book is about the affirmation of faith; it doesn't matter what religion you practice or what you believe in as long as you have faith in something. This is the message in my book.

Q. Have you written other novels?

ASP: Yes. I have my first novel which I wrote in 1990 that I have to modernize, bring it into the 21st century, and I have a new one that I started in 2002 that is 99% complete. I hope to publish them next year.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anthony Samuel Policastro has been writing all his life.

The publication of his first novel is the pinnacle of his work having previously published articles in *The New York Times*, *American Photographer* and other national, regional and local publications.

Policastro was the former editor-in-chief of *Carolina Style* magazine, a regional lifestyle publication similar to *Southern Living* magazine. He was a former journalist, photographer, and Webmaster.

The author's background is in technology and telecommunications. He currently works as the senior business analyst for Lulu.com, the largest do-it-yourself publisher in the world headquartered in Morrisville, NC.

He has two BA degrees - one in Creative Writing, and another in American Studies from Penn State University, both of which have greatly enhanced his writing career.

Born in New Jersey, he now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina with his wife. He has two sons and a daughter.

ABOUT LULU

Founded in 2002, Lulu is the world's fastest-growing print-on-demand publisher, headquartered in Research Triangle Park, NC. Please see www.lulu.com for more information.

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