



The Absence of Goodness

By Isaac Morris

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When a sheriff's deputy is brutally murdered, fellow deputy Margaret Donovan—his lover—now finds herself questioning every choice she has made as her life spins out of control. Margaret, the daughter of a well-respected Sheriff, struggles to find meaning in life and falls back on the faith she was raised in. A friendship develops between her and a nun from the local convent that reawakens that faith. In time, she hands in her badge and gun and takes the veil. When she is about to make her final profession, two students at Saint Dominic's High School are murdered. Her old boss the Sheriff asks her to work with him to solve the killings. Margaret soon discovers a link between the two recent killings and the murder of another Saint Dominic's student that has gone unsolved for more than thirty years. She also learns that there may have been an effort to cover up that old killing to protect some very influential people. She suspects that someone has returned to even the score. But who? As she works to find a killer before he strikes again, she also struggles with herself as her decision about a final profession to the religious life draws near. There are two big problems. There is another child out there who is on the killer's hit list, but they don't know who he or she is. And the detective Margaret is working with, Bill Templeton, is falling in love with her. Margaret soon realizes that she is beginning to fall in love with him. This fast-paced novel has little in common with other so-called clerical mysteries because the protagonist, Sister Margaret, is a complex woman who makes bad choices more often than she would like. Her desperate attempt to solve the murders of two of her students is as much a spiritual journey as it is a mystery. Only God knows where it will all end, and it is Margaret's faith and ultimately her love that will allow her to make it through.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

A native of Iowa, Isaac Morris grew up in central Illinois and was educated for 12 years in parochial schools. He entered a Catholic seminary after high school, but left after one year and received a bachelor's degree in English Literature in 1972 from MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois. He earned a master's degree in religion from Butler University and Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, in 1974. Mr. Morris worked for the Illinois state insurance department and the high-risk health insurance pool for 30 years, during which time he authored or ghostwrote articles for commissioners of insurance on insurance regulatory issues. His first novel, *The Absence of Goodness*, was self-published in 2008. His second novel, *Along the River Road*, was self-published first in Kindle format in 2011. The title was released through CreateSpace in January 2012. Mr. Morris is currently adjunct instructor of philosophy and religion for Lincoln Land Community College. He and his wife, Carol, live in Springfield, Illinois.

Users Review

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