



Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America

By Mel White

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"Compelling... eloquent and compassionate... We learn as much about growing up in the Christian right as we do about gay life in Mel White's heartfelt and revealing memoir."—*San Francisco Examiner*

Until Christmas Eve 1991, Mel White was regarded by the leaders of the religious right as one of their most talented and productive supporters. He penned the speeches of Ollie North. He was a ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, worked with Jim Bakker, flew in Pat Robertson's private jet, walked sandy beaches with Billy Graham. What these men didn't know was that Mel White—evangelical minister, committed Christian, family man—was gay.

In this remarkable book, Mel White details his twenty-five years of being counseled, exorcised, electric-shocked, prayed for, and nearly driven to suicide because his church said homosexuality was wrong. But his salvation—to be openly gay and Christian—is more than a unique coming-out story. It is a chilling exposé that goes right into the secret meetings and hidden agendas of the religious right. Told by an eyewitness and sure to anger those Mel White once knew best, *Stranger at the Gate* is a warning about where the politics of hate may lead America... a brave book by a good man whose words can make us richer in spirit and much wiser too.

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Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America By Mel White Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This is the account of a deeply religious man's coming to terms with his gayness and the impact that process had on his life. A former ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, and other religious-right personalities, White offers a compelling story; gay readers raised in a fundamentalist Christian environment will find themselves saying, "That happened to me." Yet the book's subtitle is somewhat misleading. This is not really so much about being gay and Christian in America as it is the story of one individual's struggles. To describe what it means to be gay and Christian is truly a difficult task; perhaps there is no one concrete definition. Recommended for public, academic, and theological libraries and gay/lesbian resource centers.

Lee Arnold, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

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From [Booklist](#)

There are plenty of clergymen's coming-out stories (most by Anglican priests) and plenty of gay replies to Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and other antigay Christian evangelists, but on both counts, this is the one everybody's been waiting for. Raised in the same mold as those religious-right leaders, White was their colleague and collaborator. He ghostwrote two books for Falwell (including Mr. Moral Majority's "autobiography"), one for Robertson, and speeches for nonclerical gay-baiter Ollie North and the less problematic Billy Graham. Before the ghosting, White pursued a hectically successful career as an evangelical filmmaker, conference and retreat organizer, and occasional preacher. All the while, he, a married man with two children, struggled with homosexuality, which he says he felt from his earliest awareness of sexual consciousness. He lasted 25 years as a committed family man before he and long-suffering wife Lyla agreed he had to come out completely and divorced. Although decidedly egotistical (we especially wish White would say more about his heroic wife), this autobiography is moving, inspirational, and not a little spectacular--which makes it all the more readable. *Ray Olson*

From Kirkus Reviews

Mel White, an evangelical minister and former ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and other prominent leaders of the religious right, here describes his half-century-long struggle to accept himself as a gay Christian. Deeply angered by the recent gay-bashing tactics of his former clients, White says he could stand to "be a ghost no longer"; after years in the closet, writing for others, he finally had to tell his own story. He leads us through his shame-ridden adolescence, his anguishing attempts to make his marriage work, his high-speed career as a Christian writer and minister, and, perhaps most painfully, his attempts to "cure" himself of homosexuality through prayer, electric-shock therapy, and guilt. White's is the story of a "man of God" enduring nearly unbearable suffering before finding the strength to preach the good news. It is also a coming-out story. White's style suffers, at points, from the pitfalls of cliché, and polemical simplification. Yet his ability to reconcile his divergent identities, as preacher and gay man, gives his voice a unique, impassioned confidence. His tale is inspired, and strengthened, by a commitment to two warring communities. He seeks acceptance and civil rights for other gay men and lesbians yet also wants to deliver his fellow Christians from their own hatred. Readers will be moved by White's search for an accepting community, which he finally finds in the Metropolitan Community Church, a gay and lesbian nondenominational Christian congregation. *Stranger at the Gate* is likely to provoke useful dialogue among mainstream Christians and to offer unsentimental hope and comfort to many who are struggling to reconcile homosexual desires with hostile, yet deeply valued, religious traditions. -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dan Williams:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they are still students or this for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*. All type of book could you see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Allen Reilley:

The reason? Because this *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Paul Mackey:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America* book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still doubt *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America* as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one reserve that can break don't evaluate book by its handle, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

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