

by

Gerard D. Webster

Reviewed by Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopes, publisher of "Time with Tannia" (http://timewithtannia.tripod.com/)

The award winning action-drama novel, *In-Sight*, written by author Gerard D. Webster, stands out among other Catholic books in this genre.

The book begins with Carrie Hope's dad's last words to her before dying in the hospital: "I love you as my own." Carrie's parents were killed by a drunk driver when she was a freshman at Florida State University (FSU). This event leaves Carrie alone and with no known relatives. When she turns 21, opportunity comes knocking at her door- she lands a Summer internship job in TV journalism in England. She needs to apply for a passport and is unable to find a copy of her birth certificate. She contacts Mr.Tom Eddington, the family lawyer, and asks for his assistance. Her meeting with Mr. Eddington reveals some shocking family secrets that find Carrie ill-prepared and send her in a life of busyness and internal turmoil.

Meanwhile, syndicated column writer, Ward McNulty, is enjoying the fame and the power of his political commentary column, <u>Inside Story</u>. His credibility and insight change the lives of those people he writes about. Ward has been very outspoken and supportive of State Senator Chet Garner in his column. This relationship, however, will proof itself shallow and manipulative as the story unfolds.

Carrie Hope buries her past and continues working on TV journalism. Her hard work earned her the position of co-host at the news program, Channel Five at Five. She and Ward McNulty meet at the studio as she interviews him for the news series,'Local People Makes Good.' Some time after this interview, Carrie and Ward start dating and end up with Carrie's moving in with Ward. At first, their relationship is full of lust and passion, but these slowly disappear as they get more and more involve in their careers.

Democrat State Senator Chet Garner will stop at nothing to gain the necessary votes to the US Congress, including, but not limited, to defamation of his competitor and all of those who stand on his way. He has been supportive of the "North Beach" development project to take place in Timuqua Island because he sees it is beneficial for Florida and also for the residents of the island.

Some of the residents are suspicious about the "North Beach Project" and they decide to hire real state lawyer, Bob Rohrback, to represent them in court. When Bob starts requesting papers from the City Council and taking some legal actions, this sets the wheel on as a set of unfortunate events starts affecting those obstructing and delaying the project. One of those victims is Ward McNulty, who refuses to use his column to defame former defense lawyer, Bob Rohrback. Ward suffers a car accident that leaves him blind for some time. Soon after his sight is restored, he discovered he has an in-sight into people's souls. This so discovered "gift" terrifies him and he doesn't know how to deal with it. But with the help of his dad, he learns to use his gift to better himself and help others in need.

The rest of the book goes back and forth between those in favor and those opposed to the project. Ward McNulty and Carrie Hope find themselves caught in the middle of the struggle and fighting in opposite sides. Lives will be turned up side down and others will be destroyed, while a handful of brave ones will find justice as the truth sets them free.

This is a tale of betrayal, faith, power, recovery, redemption, trust, and justice for all. I enjoyed the way the author weaved into the story the benefits of a regular confession, the AA Program for alcohol addiction, family relationship, and law. All these elements are tastefully discussed through the story without making the readers uncomfortable with some of these sensitive topics. The word of Jesus: "Let your eyes be opened" will take a whole new meaning after the reader finishes reading this book.

I recommend this book to those readers looking for a Catholic action drama fiction story with a cutting edge that doesn't jeopardize their beliefs and convictions. This book was awarded 2nd place in the 2009 Creative Arts Council Book Awards.



Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés author of *The Window To My Soul, My Walk With Jesus*(2004 Tate Publishing ISBN 0975393359.) *El Espejo de mi Alma* (2009 Pleasant Word)Visit the author at: http://timewithtannia.tripod.com/, www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes, and www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes

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