



## The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist

By Matt Baglio

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**The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist** By Matt Baglio

**The inspiration for the film starring Anthony Hopkins, journalist Matt Baglio uses the astonishing story of one American priest's training as an exorcist to reveal that the phenomena of possession, demons, the Devil, and exorcism are not merely a remnant of the archaic past, but remain a fearsome power in many people's lives even today.**

Father Gary Thomas was working as a parish priest in California when he was asked by his bishop to travel to Rome for training in the rite of exorcism. Though initially surprised, and slightly reluctant, he accepted this call, and enrolled in a new exorcism course at a Vatican-affiliated university, which taught him, among other things, how to distinguish between a genuine possession and mental illness. Eventually he would go on to participate in more than eighty exorcisms as an apprentice to a veteran Italian exorcist. His experiences profoundly changed the way he viewed the spiritual world, and as he moved from rational skeptic to practicing exorcist he came to understand the battle between good and evil in a whole new light. Journalist Matt Baglio had full access to Father Gary over the course of his training, and much of what he learned defies explanation.

*The Rite* provides fascinating vignettes from the lives of exorcists and people possessed by demons, including firsthand accounts of exorcists at work casting out demons, culminating in Father Gary's own confrontations with the Devil. Baglio also traces the history of exorcism, revealing its rites and rituals, explaining what the Catholic Church really teaches about demonic possession, and delving into such related topics as the hierarchy of angels and demons, satanic cults, black masses, curses, and the various theories used by modern scientists and anthropologists who seek to quantify such phenomena.

Written with an investigative eye that will captivate both skeptics and believers alike, *The Rite* shows that the truth about demonic possession is not only stranger than fiction, but also far more chilling.

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## **The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist** By Matt Baglio Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Journalist Baglio follows a Catholic priest through the latter's training to become an exorcist in this incisive look at the church's rite of exorcism and its use in contemporary life. Baglio began delving into the topic after hearing about a course at a Vatican-affiliated university, where he met and befriended the Rev. Gary Thomas, a priest in the diocese of San Jose, Calif. Thomas took the exorcism course at the request of his bishop and subsequently apprenticed himself to a seasoned exorcist. Keenly aware of the misunderstanding that abounds about exorcism through film images, Baglio sets about dispelling misconceptions and does so skillfully, separating the real from the imaginary in the mysterious and unsettling sphere of the demonic. Both Thomas and Baglio were changed by their exposure to the rite. Thomas grew spiritually during the process, which bolstered his desire to help his parishioners, and Baglio, previously a nominal Catholic, reconnected with his faith. For anyone seeking a serious and very human examination of this fascinating subject, one that surpasses the sensational, this is absorbing and enlightening reading. (Mar. 10)

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From School Library Journal

Chanting prayers and slinging holy water, the cinematic exorcist faces the forces of evil with strength and faith. But what of his real-life counterpart? In his first book, journalist Baglio follows Brother Gary, an American Roman Catholic priest, as he learns about exorcism firsthand during a sabbatical in Rome, first through a university class and later through an apprenticeship with an Italian exorcist. Spectacular exorcisms do occur, but most of the book focuses on other topics, from Father Gary's early life to the scientific controversies surrounding exorcism. *The Rite* provides more questions than answers: Why do some exorcists use methods not approved by the Church? Has the popularity of alternative religions led to a rise in possessions and exorcisms, as Baglio's interviewees maintain? If exorcism is a Christian ritual, why does it benefit Hindus and Muslims? More guidance as to how readers might explore these questions would be welcome, but this book is recommended for all public libraries as a place to begin the dialog.—Dan Harms, SUNY at Cortland Memorial Lib.

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Review

### Praise for *The Rite*

“There are chilling descriptions of exorcists battling demons in *The Rite* ... Baglio has strong storytelling skills, and constructs a narrative that travels a long distance quickly.”

— *LA Times*

“Matt Baglio’s book is a wake-up call. It smashes the many myths created by Hollywood movies and other amateurs on the subject about exorcism and the role of the exorcist in the Catholic Church.”

— Father Basil Cole, O.P., professor of moral and spiritual theology of the Pontifical Faculty at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.

"Journalist Baglio follows a Catholic priest through the latter's training to become an exorcist in this incisive look at the church's rite of exorcism and its use in contemporary life. Baglio began delving into the topic after hearing about a course at a Vatican-affiliated university, where he met and befriended the Rev. Gary Thomas, a priest in the diocese of San Jose, Calif. Thomas took the exorcism course at the request of

his bishop and subsequently apprenticed himself to a seasoned exorcist. Keenly aware of the misunderstanding that abounds about exorcism through film images, Baglio sets about dispelling misconceptions and does so skillfully, separating the real from the imaginary in the mysterious and unsettling sphere of the demonic. Both Thomas and Baglio were changed by their exposure to the rite. Thomas grew spiritually during the process, which bolstered his desire to help his parishioners, and Baglio, previously a nominal Catholic, reconnected with his faith. For anyone seeking a serious and very human examination of this fascinating subject, one that surpasses the sensational, this is absorbing and enlightening reading."

— *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"*The Rite* is in my opinion one of the best books ever written on the topic of exorcism. I have read very few books that give a description as appropriate, as precise, or as detailed, and the author's deep knowledge of the subject makes it a true instrument of knowledge useful for many people."

– Fr. José Antonio Fortea, author of *Interview With an Exorcist: An Insider's Look at the Devil, Demonic Possession, and the Path to Deliverance*

"Truth is stranger than fiction ... and far more terrifying. Forget what Hollywood tells you about demonic possession and exorcism; *The Rite* will open your eyes to the awesome truth about such things. I've been investigating paranormal events for some time, but this book taught me much that I didn't know about the timeless battle for the human soul waged between the forces of good and evil. Fascinating, inspiring, and scary, a great read."

— John Kachuba, author of *Ghosthunters: On the Trail of Mediums, Dowrsers, Spirit Seekers, and Other Investigators of America's Paranormal World*

"What sets Baglio's book apart from many other contemporary works on the same subject is its sober, measured tone and steady refusal to sensationalize the subject."

– Amy Wellborn

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Beverly Harrison:**

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students as they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist*. All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

#### **Marjorie Wright:**

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information today can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider when those

information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist as your daily resource information.

**Mindy Munson:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

**Julie Chambers:**

This The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist is brand new way for you who has fascination to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist can be the light food in your case because the information inside this book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there is not any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

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