

[PDF] The Miracle Detective

Randall Sullivan - pdf download free book



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Author: Randall Sullivan
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly In what often reads like a spiritual whodunit, author and Rolling Stone contributing editor Sullivan takes readers on a journey into the labyrinthine world of religious apparitions and miracle investigations. Sullivan's fascination with the subject began in 1994 when he learned of a spiritual phenomenon in his own backyard—the reported apparition of the Virgin Mary in a rundown trailer in eastern Oregon. Intrigued, he did some cursory research about such occurrences and proposed to his publisher to do a book on "miracle detectives." He began in Rome, where he met with Catholic Church officials charged with investigating such phenomena, and proceeded to the village of Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia, where the Virgin reportedly first

appeared to six young people in 1981. It was in Medjugorje that Sullivan encountered an unexpected turn in his investigation—a personal religious experience in which a mysterious young woman came to his aid as he made a pilgrimage up the mountain of Krizevac. This and his subsequent spiritual encounters make for an interesting subplot as Sullivan continues his quest to explain the unexplainable, though he never fully discloses the details of where those experiences led him. Much has been written about Marian apparitions, particularly those at Medjugorje, but *The Miracle Detective* may well emerge as one of the most comprehensive and engaging modern works on the subject. Well told and expertly researched, Sullivan's book should appeal to skeptics and believers alike.

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From In 1994, Sullivan, a contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* and *Men's Journal*, learned about a vision of Mary appearing in an Oregon trailer and decided he might like to write about how the Catholic Church investigates such sightings. What he didn't know was that his "reporting" would turn into a personal quest leading him to Medjugorje, where six young seers see visions on the backdrop of the Bosnian war; to Scottsdale, Arizona, a seemingly unlikely spot for visionaries but the home of a group of them nonetheless; and to Rome, where Sullivan has brushes with both the pope and the devil. If what Sullivan writes about is astounding--sightings, healings, possession--the breadth and depth of his work is rather astonishing as well. This is a stunning mix of the personal and the historic, interviews and experiences, with Sullivan incredibly nimble at making the worlds overlap--in a way, just as visionaries do. He combines his own questions and doubts--even his anguish over the lives of those who claim to see Mary--with the history that is being played out at the time, especially the war in Bosnia, about which he goes into incredible, painful detail. His writing draws readers into his search for answers, and soon we find ourselves sharing his excitement, depression, and anger. Does he find his answers? Well, as one priest puts it, "true belief is a decision." *Ilene Cooper*

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