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MEDIA CENTER BOOK REVIEW

Something Other than God
by Jennifer Fulwiler

Something Other than God is Jennifer Fulwiler's personal spiritual journey. By all accounts, her background would seem unlikely soil for sprouting the seeds of faith. An only child raised by loving parents, her mother was a fallen away Catholic who kept her beliefs to herself. Her father was an atheist who taught her religion was a crutch people used to comfort themselves from the fear of death. Growing up in the Bible Belt, her worldview was continually challenged, causing her to often feel an outsider.

After college, she landed a great job as a programmer and came to meet her husband Joe, a successful upwardly mobile Ivy League graduate. After together riding the wave of career successes and material rewards, Joe decides to quit his job and start his own business just months before their impending wedding. To achieve Joe's goal, they are forced to make a series of material sacrifices that eventually lead them to living in the home of Jennifer's mother. During their courtship, Jennifer discovers that Joe is a quiet Christian which she finds mildly disturbing and pricks her interest once more in the God question.

Not long after their wedding, Jennifer unexpectedly discovers she is pregnant with their first child. The birth of her son Donald creates the impetus for a serious look at the claims of Christianity. She begins reading Christian authors and starts her own blog to share her struggles. The inherent lack of uniformity among the Protestant sects on moral issues ultimately leads her to consider Catholicism.

Then her husband Joe gets engaged in the blog discussion. They both begin to reexamine their own moral stances on the issues of abortion and contraception. Jennifer purchases a Catholic Catechism to further understand Church teachings. Ultimately, a difficult pregnancy, a discovery of a genetic blood clotting disorder, the stresses of building their business, and the demands of providing for their growing family put Joe and Jennifer at a crossroads. Will they continue to follow the world seeking control, material success and comfort, or seek a new path through joining the Catholic Church? Read this book to find how God acts in small miraculous ways to teach Jennifer the power of prayer, suffering, self-denial and the sacraments. Jennifer's sharp wit and self-deprecating commentary shine throughout this book making for enjoyable and rewarding reading!

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