

## **A Divine Read**

This story sizzles with brutal realities of suffering, characters that bleed and emote human blood and emotions and the ever-present hope for release and redemption from pain (of body and mind). Long in words and chapters (over 420 and 97 respectively), one becomes oblivious to its length and gets swept up in the lives and scenes herein.

Walker Judson's life as a boy is portrayed as an unloved, abused outcast and is similar in language and character to that of Rick Bragg's superb memoir *All over but the Shouting*. Similarly, Ms. Wittenberg keeps the pain of Walker's early life in tow, but develops his character into a nuanced and complicated young man who later arrives in Buena Vista and begins to use his gift to heal others in body and soul.

Walker is inundated with both those in need and those who see him as a saint and wish to learn how to heal as he does. One such woman, whom he renames Lauren Son, becomes intricately involved with his new center (both physically, emotionally and personally with Walker). Are she and others being used by Walker for his own needs or are they part of a larger plan, that only Walker, his mother and a few others can see?

Religious and spiritual principals, ideas and explanations abound and are at readers' fingertips throughout this story, but are not presented as "the truth", only as aspects of what the characters believe and/or are thinking.

The *Worship of Walker Judson* is a fine example of an author's first work of fiction not only being adequate, but surpassing many other well-known and widely published writers. This is a divine read, whether or not one believes in anything divine at all.

Gabriel Constans, author of *Buddha's Wife*.

### **Our need for magic, meaning and love can result in idolization and exploitation.**

Wow! What an amazing piece of work by a truly gifted writer. Strubbe Wittenberg walks us through the innards of a multidimensional story, revealing how human need for magic, meaning and love can result in idolization and exploitation.

The *Worship of Walker Judson* is an awakening of insights into the mind, mystery and mechanics of a great healer. The writing style, both eloquent and fast paced unfolds an intriguing path through a cinematic lens of town folks' perspectives as they interact and react to the gifts and grandiosity of a healer with inexplicable powers. Guiding us through their intertwining lives, the writer unveils the secrets of healing and the numerous ego traps both healers and their clients can fall prey to.

The novel caught me. The main characters, Lauren and Walker, grew on me. As an Energy Healer myself, I related to the universal themes a healer must face. The author tapped into the depth and complexity of her characters with a unique artistic writing style. She presented her subjects with unusual style, revealing complex blind spots, gifts, and humanness. This read is a fast paced, intriguing trip and time well spent.

Laura Fine, Director: Lionheart Institute of Transpersonal Energy Healing