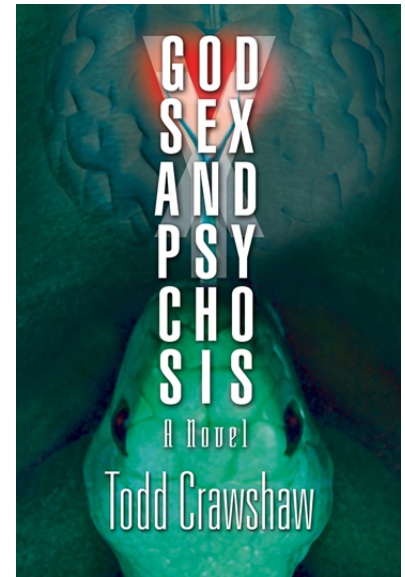


Author Q&A

Q) Why did you name the novel God, Sex & Psychosis?

A) To be provocative, and to define the novel in three words. God represents the concept of a supreme being who created our existence. The reason why we exist is the quintessential existential question that has no definitive answer. Sex: is essential. If our bodies did not come equipped with these erogenous zones, we would not likely have the desire, nor the attraction, to engage in intimate acts and procreate. When the coupling is consensual, conjoined in love, sex can be beautiful. But when forced upon another unwillingly, sex is ugly, even damaging. Psychosis: is a mental disorder, in which a person's thoughts and emotions are so impaired that the mind has lost contact with external reality. Sexual trauma at an early age is a root cause of dissociative identity disorder. And this is the central subject of the novel.



Q) What exactly is dissociative identity disorder?

A) It's a mental condition, previously called multiple personality disorder, wherein a person's identity is fragmented into two or more independent personalities that often deny knowledge of one another and are sometimes in conflict. The behavior of these alternate personalities can appear as if spirits have taken possession of an individual. It is one of the most controversial psychiatric disorders with no clear consensus regarding its diagnosis or treatment.

Q) How did you come up with the idea for the story?

A) It started years ago. I was attending the University of Oregon, where I graduated with a degree in psychology. While taking a course in abnormal psychology, I first learned about multiple personality disorder. And it occurred to me then that this abnormal condition would make for an interesting murder mystery. Yet, I never actually thought I would ever write this novel, or any novel.

Q) What changed your mind?

A) Using words to create art had not occurred to me at the time. My focus was on being a visual artist. Then suddenly it dawned on me that creative writing could be a visual art form too.

Q) Is the novel still a murder mystery?

A) It is. But the idea for this story evolved from being strictly a murder mystery into a suspenseful thriller and psychological puzzle about the nature of our existence. The story poses this question: Who are we really? What constitutes our sense of self? Our identity? Our personality or personalities? Dissociative identity disorder is still the central topic. And there is a serial killer who carves an X into each murder victim. But the underlying theme is: How do children cope with sexual trauma? What is the mental and spiritual path to recovery, to revenge, to love, to a restorative redemption?

Q) How extensive was the research for this novel?

A) I interviewed medical professionals, psychiatrists and psychologists, familiar with this disorder, and read numerous journals, articles, and books on the subject. The manuscript was also read for accuracy by a Senior Staff Counsel in the Department of Social Services, Legal Division/Enforcement, State of California, who represented death row inmates, including serial killers, in their post-conviction appeals.

Q) What do you hope to achieve with this novel?

A) To engage, inform, and inspire. To change the world, one reader at a time. Too ambitious?

Q) Do you believe there is a God?

A) Good question. I will quote one of the protagonists from the novel, who says, "Until proven otherwise, why not? It's the human condition. To believe in something. So, yes."

For more information, excerpts, videos visit: www.Crownsnest-Pub.com/books/god-sex-psychosis/

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