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## GOD, SEX, AND PSYCHOSIS

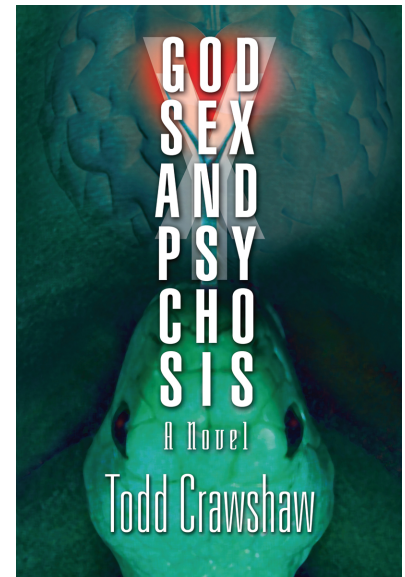
A NOVEL | TODD CRAWSHAW

A relevant and a compelling story, *God, Sex & Psychosis* explores the psychological damage that occurs after sexual abuse, specifically rape, when the victims are children, male and female. The subject is timely considering current events (e.g., MeToo movement, sexual assault allegations, Senate Judiciary hearings). Key topics are dissociative identity disorder, rape, incest, teenage gang violence, college date rape. The underlying theme: how do individuals, especially children, cope with sexual trauma? What is the mental and spiritual path to recovery, to revenge, to love, and to redemption?

*God, Sex & Psychosis* is, in essence, a psychological puzzle. The protagonists have experienced sexual trauma at an early age. Their experiences have affected them in distinctively different ways. One becomes a criminal psychologist; the other, a performing artist. In their professional lives, both are intelligent and functional, yet they are dysfunctional in other areas. The story is divided into three sections, Part One is the thematic overture. It highlights the formative years of Egon and his twin sister, Faye, both traumatized by an abusive father. Part Two illustrates the fragmented points of view of both siblings, now adults, being analyzed by Mira, a court-appointed psychotherapist struggling with her own inner demons. Part Three is Mira's story, told as a confessional: how she was gang-raped at age twelve and scarred by her attackers; how her rage manifested into a quest for revenge, which caused two deaths at the college she had attended; and how these incidents are connected to murders taking place in San Francisco.

With dissociative identity disorder (DID), a person's identity is fragmented into two or more independent personalities. The root cause of DID is sexual trauma at an early age. Not only a suspenseful thriller, *God, Sex & Psychosis* is, at its core, a love story between two damaged souls struggling to overcome their afflictions. Infused with seemingly independent and irredeemable elements, these pieces combine to explain Egon's and Mira's attraction and improbable bond. And, no, they are not the same person. The conclusion is more complex and unexpected.

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*When criminal psychologist Mira Skyles is assigned by a court order to evaluate Egon Norwood, a person of interest in a serial murder investigation, she recognizes both a man with a dissociative identity disorder and the boy who once saved her life, with whom she shares a secret history.*

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“Your book is freakin’ amazing – seriously. I could not put it down – even when I should have been fixing Thanksgiving dinner.” — Kate Johnston, Senior Staff Counsel, Dept. of Social Services, Legal Division / Enforcement, State of California

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“For readers who enjoy multiple layers of meaning, this story explores mental health, family dynamics, friendship, trust, betrayal, sociopathy, compassion, love, sex, philosophy, mythology, religion, time, the cosmos...to mention but a few. The author manages to weave all these themes into a unique and, at times, shocking narrative as we watch the characters morph before our eyes, leaving us unsure what or whom to believe as the story twists and turns along. The book is a thriller on many levels, while opening us up to questions about who we really are and what we really know, about ourselves, those we love, and the universe around us.” — Leslie White, The Book Passage Staff