

A Secret of the Universe

Stephen L. Gibson

Truth-Driven Strategies (2007)

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Reviewed by Paige Lovitt for Reader Views (9/07)

“A Secret of the Universe” begins in 1985, when buddies Ian and Bill are in high school. As they experience all of what life has to offer, both good and bad, they set off on different paths in regards to their personal spiritual beliefs. At one point, this does have a negative impact on their relationship, but at other points, the difference in their views makes each research deeper into their belief systems. In this way, it makes them stronger with what they believe.

As time progresses into the 1990’s both men are now married, and have their own lives to lead. Ian helps start a group, “The Desoterica,” which investigates the epistemology of religious beliefs, especially Christian beliefs. These highly educated people share their knowledge with each other and begin writing their own book about what they believe to be the true fundamental basis for Christianity.

In 2010, the group shares their work with the rest of the world. This is seen by many as an attack on Christianity. For others, their eyes are finally opened. The reaction of society impacts the group, and they are forced to be more discrete about where they live. Unfortunately, a tragedy still results from this.

I really enjoyed reading “A Secret of the Universe.” The story was excellent. It was interesting to see the infallibility of Bill, the man who considered his self to be a true Christian. Ian’s research actually made him go into further exploration of his own beliefs. I found myself being educated about different beliefs through the discussions in the stories. I learned how people explain their beliefs that the earth is only 6,000 years old. I had heard this idea before, but this was the first time that I saw how the belief was justified. There was also a great deal of comparisons between pagan and Christian rituals. It appears that Christianity was not very creative in coming up with new ideas for rituals. I found these comparisons to be fascinating.

My book came with a chapter-by-chapter discussion guide for this novel. The questions contained in the study guide are very thought-provoking and could lead to some very stimulating conversations within study groups. I highly recommend that this book be read by readers on a quest for the truth. “A Secret of the Universe” will help direct them on their path.