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“Offers a far deeper message than the other 'Secret' book so popular these days, but this secret is based in reality, always a good idea if you live in this universe and not some other!”

--Dr. Michael Shermer, Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine and monthly columnist for *Scientific American*

TIMELY NOVEL ARGUES INTOLERANCE AND HISTORICAL IGNORANCE HIDE DEEPEST TRUTHS OF RELIGION

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – In an era of tribal conflict, culture wars, and a constant drum beat of scientific discoveries that challenge our worldviews and beliefs, it should come as no surprise that there is conflict in the world. But is there a path out of the angst and violence that plague us? Can there be a brighter day? According to Stephen L. Gibson’s plain-spoken novel from Middle America, *A Secret of the Universe: A Story of Love, Loss, and the Discovery of an Eternal Truth*, there is indeed a way out. Ironically, the solution was originally known to the world’s major religions, but it has been lost to a compulsive need to turn mythological truth into divisive, literalist dogma.

A Secret of the Universe is the story of two high-school pals from the Midwest for whom a personal tragedy sets in motion a journey of inquiry that spans a lifetime of cruel and glorious twists, and culminates in an astonishing discovery. The protagonist of the novel, Ian, wants answers his faith can’t provide, so he abandons traditional religion and its magic, mysticism, and supernaturalism, turning instead to science and reason. Bill’s path has become that of a devoted Christian who sees the bountiful harvest that can be achieved through spirituality and faith.

When profound revelations lead each friend to uncover shocking historical “secrets” in support of his own worldview, their odyssey plays out on a global stage, with tragic consequences. Only by embracing the inherent mystery and pain of their quest do Ian and Bill make the discovery that really matters—a genuine secret of the universe.

Using fiction, *A Secret of the Universe* is a timely, intelligible synthesis of religious scholarship and discourse—meticulously researched and footnoted—wrapped in a poignant story about God, terrorism, culture wars, and belief in the many solutions we construct to make sense out of life.

Gibson drew on his own life and inquiry into belief systems for this seminal book. Gibson, 40, has been a successful entrepreneur, corporate pilot, consultant, elected official, and community volunteer. In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, however, his nascent fascination with the origins of human belief and knowledge—known to scholars as epistemology—grew into a journey of introspection and questioning that has been both invigorating and deeply troubling. Wondering if he was alone, Gibson began to share his struggles; he now reaches thousands of people with his candid writings, DVDs, and podcasts.

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