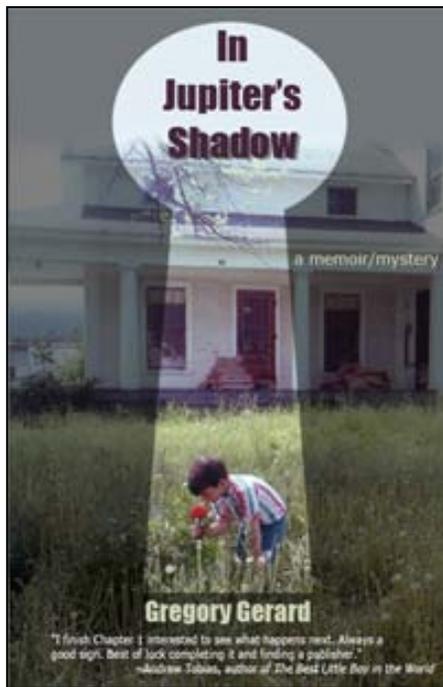


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In Jupiter's Shadow

A memoir mystery

By Gregory Gerard

**"One of the literary pleasures of this year.
In Jupiter's Shadow is one of those books
the reader wishes would never end."
—Grady Harp, Amazon Top 10 Reviewer**

"Ranked #17 on Amazon's "Hot New Releases in Memoir"

"Greg Gerard delights and entertains as he energetically and systematically tackles the mysteries of God, family, and later, sexuality...on a colorful quest to solve the ultimate mystery; to discover a sense of self."—Sonja Livingston, author of *Ghostbread*

Hiding from others is easy. Hiding from yourself is trickier.

Greg Gerard, who grew up as the youngest in a devout Catholic family in rural Western New York, dreamed of escape and adventure. He was different from his older siblings; he was “The Caboose.” While his older brothers and sisters went to public school, he alone attended Saint Michael’s – where a friendly nun with sturdy shoes and a ubiquitous guitar reminded him of his favorite movie, *The Sound of Music*. At night, he slept with boards under his sheets – so he, too could be as holy as the Saints he read about.

Mystery surrounded young Greg. At church, the priest dipped his head, whispering indistinguishable prayers. At home, the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, and his favorite, Jupiter Jones of *The Three Investigators*, provided an endless supply of intrigue. He devoured their stories, mimicked their behaviors, and dreamed of the day when he too could solve a real-life puzzle.

At thirteen, Greg's own mystery presented itself in the most unlikely place – the steamy bathtub on the second floor. He discovered sexuality – and sensed that it was “wrong” for a boy to think about Superman while doing so.

**“Generous, bighearted, and filled with homespun wisdom,
In Jupiter's Shadow is a mystery story of a different stripe!”
—Alison Smith, author of *Name All the Animals***

IN JUPITER'S SHADOW: A debut memoir mystery (Infinity; Fall 2009; Paperback; \$15.95) chronicles Gerard's investigative efforts to crack the case – to figure out how to be attracted to girls. As the investigation ensues, he builds a hidden detective agency on the second floor of the family barn, a place to dodge his father's alcoholic mood swings and listen to his favorite show, *The CBS Radio Mystery Theater*. During the search, he finds companionship with his oldest brother (who suffers from hydrocephalus and memory problems) while his angst remains as tightly hidden as the stack of pornography he pilfers from his father's grocery store.

Mentorship from a Jesuit priest (an actor with a Hollywood past) and the shock of a close friend's unexpected death ultimately propel Greg to a point where he must reverse his escape path – and solve the conflict between the shadow of "should be" and the light of self-awareness.

“A humorous, touching, uplifting read.”
—Georgia Beers, Lammy Award-winning author

“In this disarmingly honest, poignant portrait...Gerard takes us through the importance of emerging from the shadows of other people's expectations.”
—Greg DiStefano, author of *Breakdown: Diamonds, Death and Second Chances*

In the end, **IN JUPITER'S SHADOW** tweaks the struggle of adolescent sexual anxiety to take readers on a colorful quest for self definition. With the enthusiasm of an old-style mystery (including a *Cast of Characters* at each section break!), it explores the ways we all receive messages about what we “should be” in life – and how we often work to keep profound truths hidden from the most important person in our lives: ourselves.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gregory Gerard's work has been published by *Tiny Lights*, *The Stone Table Review*, and *World Voice*. He teaches writing part-time at Writers & Books, Rochester's adult literary center, and has been a guest instructor at the University of Rochester's *Scholars Creative Writing Program*. Gerard lives in Rochester, New York, with his partner of twelve years and their spitz husky.

For more information about *In Jupiter's Shadow* or to read additional work by this author, visit: www.JupitersShadow.com.

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