

Greg Gerard

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Open letter to Teachers/Counselors

RE: *In Jupiter's Shadow*

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked seven years to craft and edit the story *In Jupiter's Shadow*. I started the project from a desire to share my testimony with others, something I have done verbally through my local PFLAG Speaker's Bureau and my city's Gay Alliance Youth Project.

As a gay boy growing up in a devout Catholic environment in the late '70s/early '80s, I faced a profound struggle: a strong faith and an emerging same-sex attraction. At the age of 23, I considered taking my own life, under the erroneous assumption that God would hate the "sin" of suicide less than the "sin" of a homosexual relationship.

At that time, a book saved my life. I read the memoir "The Best Little Boy in the World" by Andrew Tobias. I identified so strongly with the main character that, for the first time in my life, I realized my feelings of isolation were deceptive. The book propelled me forward on my path to self acceptance.

It's my passionate desire to reach out to the next generation with my own story, which explores the importance of emerging from the "shadow" of others' expectations, and how we sometimes work hard to keep truth from the most important person in our lives: ourselves.

If my book helps even one person feel less isolated – less condemned by society, or religion, or even themselves – I will feel very rewarded.

I worked to write the story broadly enough that it might be enjoyed by both gay and straight readers alike. And, as a "memoir/mystery," I've received feedback that it has a unique appeal to general audiences.

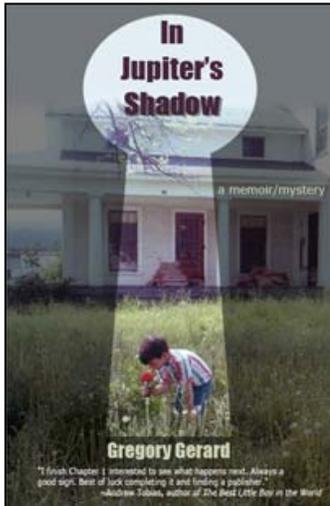
I thank you for taking time to consider *In Jupiter's Shadow* for your curriculum or counselor's library. I have included information to obtain the book on the next page of this note. Additionally, I am available via e-mail to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely

Greg Gerard (mailto: GregoryGerard@rochester.rr.com)

Are YOU living in Jupiter's Shadow?

www.JupitersShadow.com



In Jupiter's Shadow

A memoir mystery by Gregory Gerard

IN JUPITER'S SHADOW:
A debut memoir mystery (Infinity
Publishing; Fall 2009;
Paperback; \$15.95, ISBN
0741455080) and an important
testimony of faith and self-truth.

"At times heart-wrenching and
at others heartwarming, *In
Jupiter's Shadow* is ultimately a
funny, poignant, and uplifting
tale that does not disappoint."
—Georgia Beers, reviewer,
The Empty Closet

"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, AWP Award Series

ABOUT THE STORY

Growing up in rural Western New York in the late '70s/early '80s, Greg is the youngest in a devout Catholic family. They rely on faith to cope with adversity, including a brother's congenital hydrocephalus and the father's alcoholic mood swings. Greg dreams of escape through detective stories, which prepares him to tackle the profound mystery he stumbles across—in the bathtub on the second floor.

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*. For more information, visit www.JupitersShadow.com or e-mail GregoryGerard@rochester.rr.com.

"One of the literary
pleasures of this year. Filled
to the brim with brilliant
writing."
—Grady Harp, reviewer,
Poets and Artists (O&S)

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