



Child of God: A Novel

By *Lolita Files*

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Child of God: A Novel By Lolita Files

In this searing novel, bestselling author Lolita Files tells the tale of a Southern family torn apart by the secrets it struggles to keep.

Everybody knows everybody else's business in Downtown, Tennessee. Neighbors while away afternoons at the local bar, swapping rumors about voodoo, incest, and illegitimate children. Usually they're gossiping about the Botens.

In this epic saga, Lolita Files unveils the hidden lives of three generations of the Boten clan, a family as cursed by fate as they are blessed with hope. There's Grandma Amalie, who's willing to sacrifice everything for her son; there's Grace, who manages to conceal the identity of her child's father for more than twenty years; there's Aunt Sukie, whose strange power over her husband, Walter, is matched only by the strength of her dark magic; and, finally, there's Lay, whose secret betrayals will set the Boten clan in motion, sending its members on a quest for self-discovery that will lead them from one end of the world to the other.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From the author of *Scenes from a Sistah* comes this saga of a family cast about by the winds of fate and torn apart by love and fear. Entwining the stories of two generations of the Boten clan of Downtown, Tenn., Files has created a lurid play of murder, incest, rape and deceit worthy of the Shakespearean names of her characters. She references *Hamlet*, but this spectacle might find a better comparison in *Titus Andronicus*. Ophelia Boten is the product of an incestuous union between her mother, Grace, and her latently homosexual uncle, Walter. Unaware of her own origins or the tragedies of her family's past, Ophelia is soon pregnant with a love child of her own, courtesy of her vicious older brother, Lay (short for Laertes). Lay is sent off to Detroit, where he becomes a heroin dealer, and their infant son Hamlet perishes in a fire that may or may not have been started deliberately by Sukie, Walter's voodoo witch of a wife. Unsurprisingly, the family unravels even further, and the narrative eventually degenerates into more murders, fires, addictions, rapes and just about everything else under the sun. Files's writing is serviceable, but fails to lift this soap opera up to a truly moving level, leaving the flat characters to carry out the Herculean task of transforming the overblown drama into something real and poignant. Throughout it all, Files harps on the power of love, both driving the characters further into self-destruction and bringing some eventual redemption but the plot is too unwieldy and the brushstrokes too broad for this tragedy to escape predictability and garishness. Agent, Warren Frazier of John Hawkins Assoc.; 7-city author tour.

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From *Booklist*

Files' fourth novel covers the taboo subjects of incest, homosexuality, and voodoo. The southern family featured here has survived the secrets and misfortune of three generations, from the post-World War II era to the Vietnam War. The saga begins with the grandparents, Amalie and Benny, who inaugurated the family history of violence and confusion. Their perverse personal demons destroyed the family and caused the children, Grace and Walter, to share a sibling bond that was both blasphemous and wholesome. When the pregnant Grace married Big Daddy, it was hoped that the curse would be broken. Yet their sons, Lay and Polo, also became victims of the family misfortune. Walter finally marries a woman, from Louisiana, who adds another twisted secret to the already confused family history. Grace has a daughter, Ophelia, and the death of Ophelia's child in a mysterious fire prompts Grace to offer her daughter an opportunity that she herself was never able to accept; it is Ophelia's determination to confront the family curse that changes the future of the Boten legacy. *Lillian Lewis*

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Review

Susan Straight author of "I Been in Sorrow's Kitchen" and "Licked Out All the Pots" Lolita Files has created a rich, darkly fascinating world of love and betrayal, and I was compelled to finish the novel and learn the family's ultimate fate. Lolita steps into new territory with this one.

Mat Johnson author of "Drop" Intelligent, deft, gripping, "Child of God" is a page-turner that is as rewarding as it is entertaining, as fun as it is fulfilling. Lolita Files not only gives the readers what we want, but what we didn't even realize we needed. With "Child of God," Lolita Files is at her best, showing us not only why she has become one of the most popular writers of our day, but why she'll be remembered long into tomorrow. "Child of God" is a bold and fully realized accomplishment, but even better, it's a damn good

read.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shannon Grant:

Here thing why that Child of God: A Novel are different and reputable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content than it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Child of God: A Novel giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with Child of God: A Novel. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your technique home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Child of God: A Novel in e-book can be your option.

Michael Hale:

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Joyce Cannon:

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