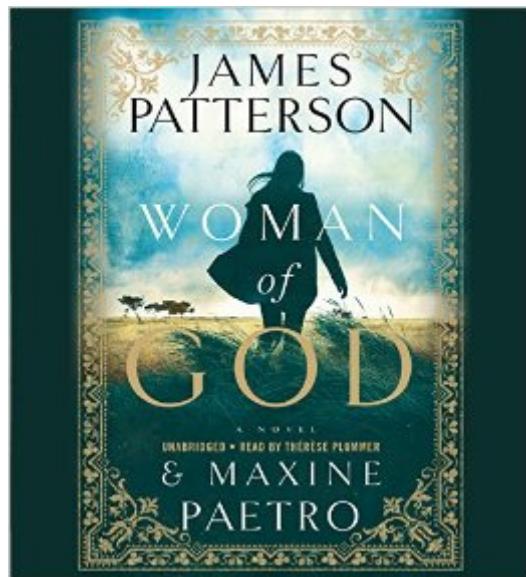


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# Woman Of God



## **Synopsis**

St. Peter's Square, Rome. White smoke signals that a new Pope has been chosen. Is it possible that the new Pope...is a woman? The world is watching as historic crowds gather in Rome, waiting for news of a new Pope, one who promises to be unlike any other in the Church's history. Some followers are ecstatic, but the leading candidate has made a legion of powerful enemies. From a difficult childhood with drug addled parents, to a career as a doctor on the front lines in Sudan, to a series of trials that test her faith at every turn, Brigid Fitzgerald's convictions and callings have made her the target of all those who fear that the Church has lost its way--dangerous adversaries who abhor challenges to tradition. Locked in a deadly, high-stakes battle with forces determined to undermine everything she believes in, Brigid must convert her enemies to her cause before she loses her faith...and her life.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I was profoundly disappointed with this novel. By the 3/4 mark, the main character has:- Graduated from Harvard at 19- Survived two heroin-addicted parents in Cambridge- Has no idea who her genetic father is- Sent herself to medical school, without debt, apparently- Worked for Doctors Without Borders in Sudan- Been from Sudan to Italy to Egypt to Israel to Germany to Boston- Survived being: shot, stabbed, and car bombed- Befriended an innocent priest accused of abusing a child and funded his defense, despite the objections of the Archdiocese of Boston who wanted him to settle (author getting a dig in there?)- Gets married, after only a single kiss from a man twice her age- The details of the consummation of the (Lutheran) marriage is skipped over, as well as the

experience of child birth, but the violence around her is described in detail (particulars of surgery, wounded and dead people around her)- Sedates herself with Valium and alcohol during the traumatic moments of her life- Works for a rehabilitation clinic while actively using alcoholThe main character has visions in which she experiences God, and hears God's voice speaking to her. The author(s) missed the majority experience of people who do not have visions, who do not hear God, and who are called to lead the Church in faith. When you've had visions and heard audible voices, you don't really need faith, do you?The main character is simply not believable. Too many details are missing, and the plot has major holes in it. As a Catholic, I wanted to get into the details of how a woman can become a priest to begin with, never mind be elected to the papacy.

If I had been given a blind copy of this novel I never would have guessed that it was authored by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. This team has produced some of the most successful books in Patterson's prolific career - namely "The Woman's Murder Club" and "Private." This offering is a major departure in style and substance and, for me, it fell short. I was intrigued by the premise of a feminist perspective on faith and religion, but the events that occur to the protagonist, Brigid Fitzgerald, stretch the boundaries of believability to the breaking point. It is not her spiritual experiences that left me shaking my head; rather, it was the cumulative material world catastrophes that went beyond all reason. She represents a modern day Job.In the midst of so much of our social structure breaking down, this book seemed to offer the interesting viewpoint regarding war and religion. Brigid Fitzgerald overcame a difficult childhood to become a young doctor serving, not once but twice, in the war-torn Sudan. Seeing multiple atrocities committed by a cruel and brutal dictator, her faith is tested over and over. Just as she seems to have achieved some stability and peace, Brigid suffers an unthinkable loss that rocks her world again. Like the proverbial phoenix rising from the ashes, she manages to overcome this tragedy and find meaning in a new relationship that eventually leads her to participate in a revolutionary movement that challenges the very tenets of the Roman Catholic Church.I didn't find Brigid very likeable, nor inspiring. For all her trials and tribulations, the character seemed rather one-dimensional and the others characters rather stereotypical. These are not the most significant problems I had with the book.

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