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Lynd's "Leaving innocence: A Gran and Bass Olson mystery" (Book Review)

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Lynd, D. (2016). *Leaving innocence: A Gran and Bass Olson mystery*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press. 259 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 9781490894478

A seventeen-year old unsolved murder, a dying man's last words, and a million-dollar reward get this exciting novel off to an intriguing start. Computer geek Bass Olson, along with his feisty grandmother and an attractive woman sheriff, launch into a quest to find out who killed Daniel Olson. Daniel, Gran's son and Bass's uncle, was a good man who sang in church and had no enemies, but was found stabbed in his truck in a sketchy neighborhood far from his hometown of Innocence. Twists and turns keep the reader wondering what could have possibly happened to Daniel, as murderous, quirky, and downright suspicious characters are introduced along the way.

While the story itself is a compelling page-turner, the skill with which the story is told makes this book unique. For instance, when Bass walks into his grandmother's kitchen, the reader smells the baking bread and coffee, tastes the salty crunch of bacon, hears the faucet running, and feels the big warm hugs of the prayer circle ladies. The descriptive detail in this mystery is incredible, from an eyelash wiped off a computer keyboard, to the pain of the emotional tirades of a mentally ill mother, to an unexpected climax so vivid that the reader's pulse will quicken in suspense.

Events escalate to a thriller-style ending, making it worth the effort to keep track of the cast of characters who pop in and out across the pages. Lynd's debut novel will be savored by anyone who enjoys Ted Dekker or Brandilyn Collins, as it creates menacing characters who act and sound as tough as can be, without any profanity or sex scenes. Highly recommended for leisure reading collections.

Reviewer

Lauren Kelley, Westmont College

Crisp, O., & Sanders, F. (Eds.). (2015). *Locating atonement: Explorations in constructive dogmatics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 256 pp. \$26.99. ISBN 9780310521167

Locating Atonement is a collection of essays originally presented at the Los Angeles Theology Conference in January 2015. The contributors are theologians and philosophers drawn from various theological camps. As suggested in the title, the essays approach atonement from the vantage of other topics in an effort to "locate" atonement within broader theological contexts. As such, the book does not map out and debate discrete atonement models (i.e., the pros and cons of so-called satisfaction theories and/or moral example and/or *Christus victor*, etc.). However,