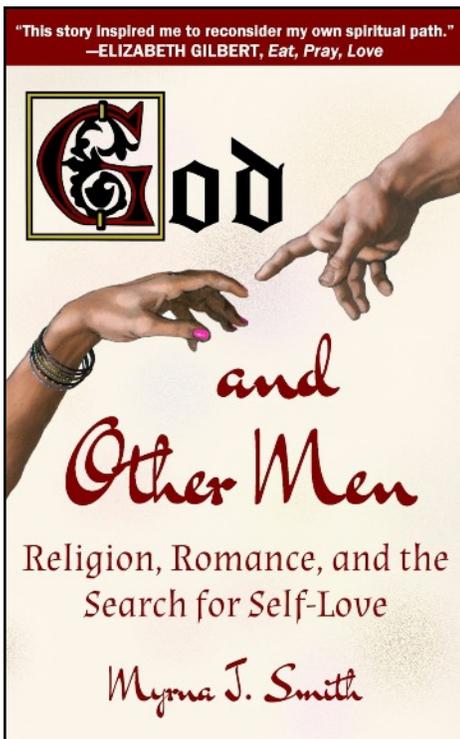


God and Other Men: Religion, Romance, and the Search for Self-Love

By Myrna J. Smith



Myrna Smith opens her story one Sunday night when she returns home from a ski weekend with her three children. While she was on the slopes, her husband had moved out. That had been the plan.

Yet her story, though it encompasses her divorce, is much larger. Ultimately, Smith sets out to love herself, to find an inner place where she can rest and grow.

In this search-for-the-holy-grail memoir, Smith traces her travels toward enlightenment as a middle-aged American woman with a wry humor and heartfelt longing. On the journey she discovers spiritual fulfillment doesn't come easily, or all at once. For her, it is quite elusive.

The quest really started, she realizes, in her childhood on an Oregon farm where she and her older sister were once "converted" in their father's pea patch by two young Bible summer school teachers barely out of their teens. The school was part of the tiny church their mother attended while their father stayed home, read Edgar Cayce books, and mused on reincarnation.

Later, drawn by the mysticism of the Hindus, Smith's journey leads to Bangalore where she touches the robes of Sai Baba, the Indian saint. Back home in New Jersey, she finds herself in a country farmhouse getting prescriptions channeled through a medium for everything from her back woes and diarrhea to an obsession with money. She also writes of the demons that surface during a years-long love affair with her beloved Charlie and what *A Course in Miracles* stirred within her.

Smith's story is one of adventure and effort that, in the end, reveals three simple yet essential truths that are both the journey and the destination.

"Never has Myrna J. Smith accepted trite or dubious solutions to her soul's deepest yearnings. The result is a lifetime of tested and practiced wisdom, culled from all the great philosophical traditions of the world and the hard-won lessons of her own heart. This book tells the whole tale in language that never veers from the elegant."

—Elizabeth Gilbert

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia

"My Princeton Theological Seminary education can't hold a candle to this exploration of the world's religions and paranormal sources of spiritual truth."

—the Rev. Dr. Susan Alloway
Presbyterian Church (USA)

About Myrna J. Smith

Myrna J. Smith, EdD, is a retired professor of English and comparative religions who continues to travel and explore the world's spiritual traditions. *God and Other Men* is her first book.



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