



The Testament of Gideon Mack

By James Robertson

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A critical success on both sides of the Atlantic, this darkly imaginative novel from Scottish author James Robertson takes a tantalizing trip into the spiritual by way of a haunting paranormal mystery. When Reverend Gideon Mack, a good minister despite his atheism, tumbles into a deep ravine called the Black Jaws, he is presumed dead. Three days later, however, he emerges bruised but alive-and insistent that his rescuer was Satan himself. Against the background of an incredulous world, Mack's disturbing odyssey and the tortuous life that led to it create a mesmerizing meditation on faith, mortality, and the power of the unknown.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Robertson offers in his absorbing American debut (two novels have been published in the U.K.) the cleverly framed autobiography of a Scottish minister who confronts the devil. A brief foreword claims the book is an autobiography penned by Gideon Mack, a Church of Scotland minister who, after allegedly encountering the devil, becomes a pariah and madman before disappearing. Raised by a harsh minister father, Gideon abandons faith at an early age, but later discovers it's possible to "be a Christian without involving Christ very much" and secures the pulpit at a small coastal church where he proves to be a gifted preacher. After his wife dies in a traffic accident, Gideon consummates a long-held obsession with old friend Elsie, whose husband, John, is also a longtime friend. A conflicted Gideon, while walking with another minister, falls into a gorge and is presumed dead. But he appears downstream, only slightly injured, three days later. His survival is miraculous, but his account of what happened is scandalous: he was saved by the devil. Gideon's struggle to find meaning in his experience leads to his undoing. Gideon's sly unreliability is cloaked by Robertson's mastery of language and command of the elements of fiction; the combination is addictive and captivating. (Apr.)

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From Booklist

Gideon Mack is a good man and a good minister . . . on the surface. Underneath, he is an atheist, he covets his best friend's wife, and he believes that life is basically meaningless. He keeps up the facade until first a huge stone appears in a clearing where there was no stone before and then he falls into the Black Jaws, a ravine with a raging river running through it. Presumed dead, the town is agog when three days later he washes ashore with an amazing tale about being tended to and entertained in a cave by the devil himself. He is, of course, suspended from his kirk and shunned by the town and eventually disappears again. When his body is found, there is also a manuscript, which is sent to a publisher, creating the framework for this story. Award-winning author Robertson makes his American debut with this thought-provoking and intelligent novel. More a discussion of humanity than divinity, it will capture and hold the reader's attention long past the last page. *Elizabeth Dickie*

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Review

"Provocative . . . [Gideon's] testament will affirm your faith in the power of fiction."

-The Washington Post

"Haunting, memorable, and completely compelling."

-Los Angeles Times

"Uncommonly thought-provoking and serious-minded . . . Gideon Mack's story raises disquieting questions most modern fiction prefers to ignore."

-San Francisco Chronicle

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beth Stewart:

The book The Testament of Gideon Mack gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable far more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with the subject. If you can make examining a book The Testament of Gideon Mack to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open and read a book The Testament of Gideon Mack. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this guide?

Diana Rush:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book The Testament of Gideon Mack it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

Ryan Fox:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get lots of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not only a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is definitely The Testament of Gideon Mack.

Shelia Tonn:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Testament of Gideon Mack, you could enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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