



CONVERGENT

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For Interviews Contact:

Kelly Hughes

312-280-8126

kelly@dechanthughes.com

For Review Copies Contact:

Jessica Brown

212-572-2229

Jebrown@penguinrandomhouse.com

New Book by Nadia Bolz-Weber, One of the Most Influential Voices in Religion Today, Reveals How the Self-Described Misfit Pastor Has Reclaimed Religion for the Disillusioned

ACCIDENTAL SAINTS: **Finding God in All the Wrong People**

Nadia Bolz-Weber's *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Pastrix* introduced the world to the six-foot-one-inch tattooed Lutheran pastor: a former stand-up comic and recovering alcoholic and the first to admit she's an unlikely candidate for the priesthood. Now, her new book *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* (Convergent Books, Hardcover \$23.00, on sale September 8, 2015) shows why Nadia is one of the most influential voices on the religion scene today.

At the center of this surprising, often hilarious narrative is Nadia herself. Angry, sardonic, and sometimes profane, she confesses that she routinely resists the very people she is called to help. Yet, she finds God keeps showing up in the unlikeliest people—accidental saints such as a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, and a gun-toting member of the NRA.

In *Accidental Saints*, Nadia seeks to reclaim the importance of religion in an age when more and more people identify as spiritual but not religious. "I've been thrown on my ass over and over by the Bible, the practice of the church, and the people of God. That is to say, by religion," she writes. For Nadia, religion means a life bound by ritual and community, by repetition, by work, and by giving and receiving grace—a gift that often feels less like a warm blanket and more like a blunt instrument.

Socially progressive yet theologically orthodox, Nadia Bolz-Weber is a sought-after speaker and public theologian who, paradoxically, leads as a kind of spiritual anti-hero. Like all the broken and needy people she bumps up against, she herself is an accidental saint—that is, one of the "wrong people" on whom and through whom God is at work. Some of the saints in her stories include:

• Amy, a paraplegic “titanium mermaid” full of sass and sarcasm, and her best friend, Bobbie, a socially awkward “emotional cripple who became Sherpa to Amy, the physical cripple...In the end, the only real love in the world is found when you let yourself be truly known. This was the love Amy and Bobbie shared, loving each other in, through, and beyond what each woman tried to hide or protect.”

• Larry, an overeager new congregant whom Nadia dislikes, “not even for any interesting reasons, just age, gender, zip code, breath, waistband...the shit horrible people judge regular nice people for because we are miserable bastards.” Larry’s sudden death fills Nadia with guilt, and a reminder of how grace works. “There is absolutely no justice in the fact that Larry loved me and that church. But if I got what I deserved in this life, I’d be screwed—so instead, I receive that grace for what is: a gift.”

• Chloe, a teenage misfit with pink bangs and cutting scars on her arms whom Nadia meets on an airplane, “a kid who in her own way said to me, *Oh hey, God told me to tell you something: Get over yourself.*”

Accidental Saints can be read as storytelling at its best, as a vision for twenty-first-century Christian fidelity that will resonate with traditionalists and progressives alike, and as a modern-day Saint Augustine’s *Confessions* that reveals for believers and unbelievers one person’s struggle to receive goodness, grace, and God in community.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

“Nadia is what you’d get if you mixed the DNA of Louis C. K., Joey Ramone, and St. Paul.” —A. J. Jacobs, editor at large, *Esquire* magazine and author of *The Year of Living Biblically*

“[Bolz-Weber] is a tatted-up, foul-mouthed champion to people sick of being belittled as not Christian enough for the right or too Jesus-y for the left.” —*Washington Post*

“I am miles away from Nadia Bolz-Weber theologically, but I sure would love to have her in my foxhole if I got in trouble.” —Rod Dreher, *The American Conservative*, author of *How Dante Can Save Your Life* and *The Little Way of Ruthie Leming*

“The amazing thing about Nadia Bolz-Weber is that she manages to take her Christianity into corners of life where the church can be pretty uncomfortable going.” —*The Daily Beast*

NADIA BOLZ-WEBER is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Patrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*. She is an ordained Lutheran pastor (ELCA) and the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado. Nadia travels domestically and internationally as a speaker and has been featured on NPR’s *Morning Edition*, *On Being* with Krista Tippett, CNN, PBS, and in the *Washington Post*, *Bitch* magazine, *The Daily Beast*, and *More* magazine. International media coverage includes BBC World Service and *The Guardian* and features in magazines in Germany, Poland, and Switzerland. Nadia lives in Denver with her family and her Great Dane, Zacchaeus. Visit her at www.nadiabolzweber.com.

Please click on the link attached to watch Nadia talk about her book.

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