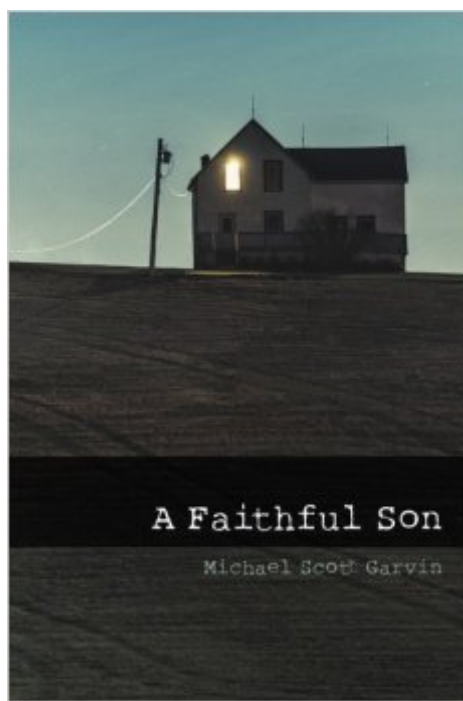


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# A Faithful Son



## Synopsis

\*\*\*\*\*Finalist in 2016 New York Book Festival Â \*\*\*\*\*Five Stars San Francisco Book Review  
Â \*\*\*\*\*Five Stars Foreward Reviews Â Â \*\*\*\*\*Five Stars Clarion ReviewÂ "...a stunning  
debut."Â -Blue InkÂ Â - Finalist on the Table Of Honor - International Book FestivalÂ Â Â "...A  
Faithful Son is a visceral experience, realistic and vibrant, wrought with the same craftsmanship as  
a painting resembling a photograph, or a window into another time and place. Michael Scott Garvin  
has populated his pages with vivid scenes filled with all the colors and sensations of nature,  
grounding narrator Zach's story in the inevitable passage of time in a way that is particularly  
rural, attuned to the slow, even pace of life's wear upon the body and the soul..."Â -Patti  
Comeau - Foreward Reviews Best of 2016Â Â "...Garvin's debut is nothing less than  
stunning... in the flavor of Harper Lee's inimitable novels--To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a  
Watchman--Garvin, like Harper, has created a colorful cast amid chaotic and enlightening  
eras.,,Garvin's plot seamlessly flows between the past and the present, keeping to themes of  
inequality, racism, and sexual orientation..."-San Francisco Book ReviewÂ Â A Faithful Son is an  
award winning, dazzling debut and genre-defying novel.This captivating coming of age tale  
chronicles the life of Zach Nance, a young man struggling to find his place in an ever-shifting world  
and the zany cast of local characters who help him come to an understanding of himself and the  
secret he harbors.The small town of Durango, Colorado provides the rural backdrop for  
Garvin's masterful novel. A hunky traveling carnie, an eccentric gaggle of pious church  
spinsters, a flirty drag queen and Jesus Christ, himself, all make appearances within the pages of  
this endearing novel.After tragedy befalls the Nance's, Zach's close-knit family  
unravels. He vows to protect his beloved mother and sister from the fallout of his troubled  
father's choices -- forcing young Zach to redefine his loyalties, his faith and his own destiny.A  
beautiful and heartrending tale in the grand tradition of To Kill A Mockingbird and The Help.A  
Faithful Son captures life's bittersweet journey through lost innocence, sacrifice, and  
self-discovery, treating readers to a compassionate story of enduring hope.Â Facebook - Michael  
Scott Garvin Author A Faithful Son

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #77,763 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Drama](#) #30 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Small Town & Rural](#) #591 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays](#)

## Customer Reviews

An intricately woven story with rich characters, moral dilemmas and heartbreaking realism. From childhood innocence, a boy matures through a conflicted youth to a hopeful release into a life with love and confidence. The story is piercing, probing and etched in reality. Michael Scott Garvin has written a fresh, relevant story worth reading again and again.

“A Faithful Son” is a pure pleasure to read! Garvin’s clean prose consistently rewards the reader with relevance, grace, impact, and entertainment. The voice of Zachary Nance, delivers a compelling narrative that sweeps you away into an emotional and intimate journey of a young man’s self-exploration. The narrative is so gut-wrenchingly honest that it is reminiscent of a confessional conversation between cherished friends. With warmth and humor, Zach colorfully describes the settings, events and characters that have shaped his life. The universal themes of loss, desire to belong, and ongoing conflicts triggered by the need to live authentically are skillfully entwined with the questions and issues that challenge our current culture. A well-developed storyline punctuated with rich colorful characters and descriptive imagery cleverly deepens into allegory, symbolism, and metaphor. It’s well written, it’s relevant, it’s ART!

I have just completed the novel, A Faithful Son by Michael Garvin. I bought the novel after spotting the book’s melancholy cover but had no idea what the themes or storyline were. Well, I got lucky! I loved this novel. It was a sweetly written story of people doing their best to live graceful lives. I did not want this novel to end. Garvin’s prose are stunning and his descriptions of the rural people and places were beautiful. The protagonist, Zach was a flawed but delightful young man. His struggle was heartbreaking but his steadfast loyalty and understanding kept me hoping for him to succeed. Garvin’s cast of local, rural characters were pure joy. Zach’s awkward best bud with a lazy eye and a group of eccentric church ladies are a riot. After reading such a kind and considerate

novel, I am left asking myself why aren't more novels like this written these days. The author steered clear of the potential politics of the subject matters and instead decided to tell the fragile, human side of these people's lives. Bravo

I love this novel. *A Faithful Son* is a smart approach to a difficult subject. *A Faithful Son* is a thoughtful novel. The plot approaches several heavy themes (religion, death and sexual discover) but the book never feels heavy or dark. There is a sweetness and lightness to the Nance family and their struggles. I love when the writer can surprise me and I was constantly surprised. How the family deals with their loss is heartbreaking, yet honest and inspiring. The outlandish humor of the eclectic cast of rural characters is charming. The subject matter of alcoholism is something very close to me and Garvin describes the damage done in real terms. In the realm of this small religious community, the novel delivers blunt truths about bias and bigotry without trashing faith and tradition. I really appreciated the sensitivity. *A Faithful Son* captured my heart. Simply put, it's just good, honest writing. My favorite novel of the year. Well Done!

**\*\* spoiler alert \*\*** This is a sweet, caring book about the love of a son for his family and his odyssey through the pain of living with a tragedy that completely changes the family dynamic. It wasn't a book I wanted to rush through, but rather savor, like a glass of fine wine that you don't really want to finish-because the writing is so beautiful: "Colorado mornings on the brink of spring begin with a deep purple reflection rising low on the horizon. The lavender glow spreads out and up as dawn slowly consumes the fading night." It is set in the youth of Durango, Colorado before the tourists discovered the Durango-Silverton Railroad, and after-when it became changed forever-not unlike Zach's family. The "sisters" of the local Assembly of God church are colorfully and humorously drawn and are an extended family to the bereaved Nance's. Zach has demons and battles of his own-he likes to drink too much and he is gay in a time and place and family that has not yet learned how to be accepting of that. This is a great and satisfying read. (less)

I truly enjoyed this novel. Garvin's *A Faithful Son* has an intriguing premise. In the 1960s, a young family lives a simple idyllic life until a terrible tragic accident. Each remaining family member grieves the loss in their own way. The marriage struggles and fractures, while each individual clings to hope in their own ways. The story sweeps you in. Zach, the only son, struggles to keep his family together while working through his own sexuality in the confines of a conservative and religious rural town. The cast of local characters had me laughing to myself throughout this charming novel. *A Faithful*

Son tells Zachâ™s story as he moves from loss to ultimately understanding himself. I loved this book, and found it hard to put down. It's story-telling at its best. It's an important book and I highly recommend A Faithful Son.

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