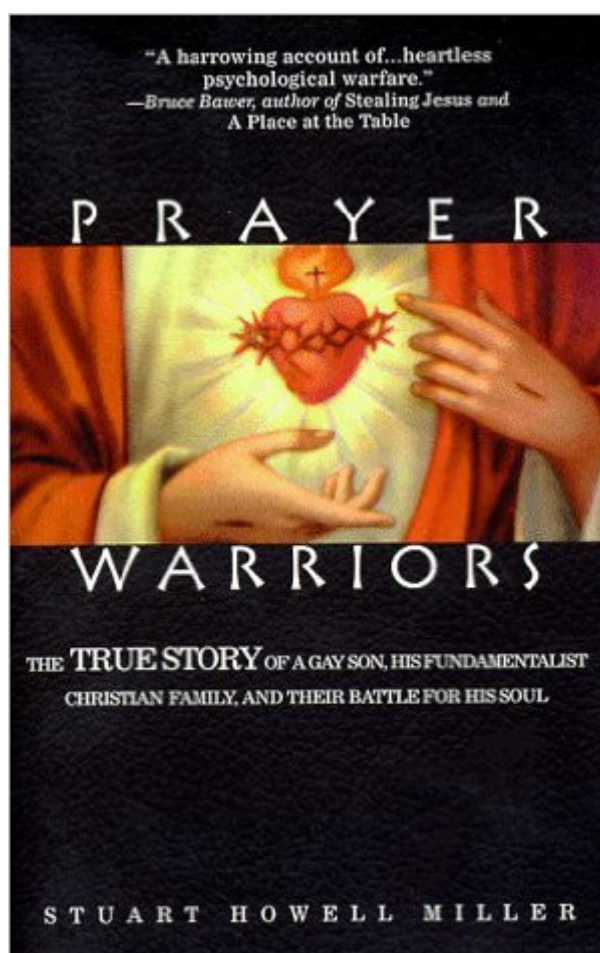


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Prayer Warriors: The True Story Of A Gay Son, His Fundamentalist Christian Family, And Their Battle For His Soul



Synopsis

When a gay man "comes out" to his fundamentalist Christian family, his father organizes a brigade of "prayer warriors"--a frightening tactic used by the extreme religious right against even the most loving of sons. 8-page photo insert.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a fifteen-year old homosexual teengr living in north Texas, or what is sometimes called "the Bible Belt." My parents are Christian, but they were not near as bad as Stuart Howell Miller's parents were. I was very pleased to find out he reacted the way he did towards his parents hostile and abusive threats. Stuart Howell Miller is definetely a pituresque portrayl of how God wants us to treat others- with love and respect, even if we don't agree with them. Because, above all, love is the most important thing.

I read this book in 24 hours. It's like Stuart was writing about my upbringing. I too would love to share with my parents that I am gay, but our fundamentalist background prevents that. I know that my coming out would result in a situation similar to Stuart's, yet I hate to lie to them. And as Shakespeare would say, "There's the rub." The Bible says that liars shall have their share of the lake of fire. At least Stuart isn't a liar. He told his family the truth about his life. To his sister and sister-in-law who I have noticed have written responses to this work here at .com, do you love Stuart? Do you truely love him? It sure seems like you are still bent on judging him rather than

showing Christ's unconditional love to him. I love my family and know that someday I will have to tell them the truth. I don't want to be a liar any longer to them. I just pray daily that their reaction will not be the same as the Miller family's reaction, but deep down...I know it will be, and that frightens me to death.

PLEASE DONT STOP READING WHEN I SAY I AM A CHRISTIAN BELIEVER. THE BOOK TOUCHED MY HEART BECAUSE SO MANY LIVES WERE HURT OR DESTROYED BECAUSE HUMANS DECIDED TO JUDGE NOT GOD. YES I KNOW FIRST HAND ABOUT GAYS. I HAVE A FEW IN MY FAMILY. OR I DID. THEY ARE BOTH GONE NOW THIS LIFE THEY LEFT BEHIND. I MISS MY COUSIN THE MOST. SHE WAS COMPASSIONATE, GIVING, KIND AND SHE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT MY FAMILY WHEN WE WERE HAVING PROBLEMS. SHE KNEW MY FEELINGS AND I KNEW HERS. BUT WE LOVED EACH OTHER DEEPLY AND I WAS NOT HER JUDGE. I WILL SAY I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE IT IS NOT A CHOICE WHEN THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO REALLY SUPPORT THAT THERORY BUT IT IS A CHOICE ONE MAKES LIKE EVERYONE MAKES CHOICES. BUT AS ACHRISTIAN MY LORD SAID THERE R MANY COMMANDEMENTS BUT GREATEST IS LOVE. HE SHOWED LOVE TO ALL. SO TO FOLLOW MY LORDS WONDEROUS EXAMPLE I TRY TO SHOW LOVE AND KINDNESS TO ALL AND NOT JUDGE. IM NOT ANYONES JUDGE. MY COUSIN LOVRD ME I LOVED HER. WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN HER AND GOD WAS HER LIFE. PRAYER AND LOVE ARE MY LIFE.

As a Christian I know the power of prayer. After reading Prayer Warriors I now know another side of that power. We've seen prayer as healing, now we can see prayer as harming. Why? Because Stuart Miller's parents went beyond praying for their son, they used prayer to condemn their son, to attack who he was. As a Christian I was disgusted and disturbed by the treatment Stuart received from his parents. A faith based around love, grace, and focused on Jesus Christ shouldn't treat a son this way. On the other side, As a gay man I was saddened by this story. One would hope that nothing could tear apart the bond between a child and his parents. Is it any wonder so many people stay in the closet? I'm greatful that Stuart Miller took the time to tell his story. Your friends may leave you, your relatives may leave you, your prarents may disown you or attack you with prayer, but God still loves us all. While I may not agree with Stuart Miller on some theological issues, I do agree with the bottom line, that gay or straight, we all truly can come to God, just as we are.

Stuart... I read your book from cover to cover in less than 48 hours.. I found it very compelling and

thoughtful, and especially appreciate the honesty and intellect you displayed in writing it. I think that it is a real human tragedy when people mis-use the power of prayer. Unfortunately, a day will come when these people will have to answer for that sin, too. The book was very well written, and I would highly recommend it. Definitely worth writing a sequel!

I was amazed in this book of a family's capacity to hate and to teach hate. I have heard about the beliefs of Fundamentalist Christians, but it was really hard to read. Miller did well in his book to explain, understand and respect his parents belief systems. He did not waste time condemning them, instead he persuaded the reader to look at their side of the argument as well as his. The book was written fairly and honestly with Miller adding a lot of personal information that I am sure was difficult to write. He should be commended for having the courage to write this book.

There aren't many books by gay and lesbian people who grew up in fundamentalist Christian families. Most people have no idea of the level of fear and loss involved with coming out in these families. This book made me feel heard and sane. One thing this book talked about that I have not seen acknowledged elsewhere is that most non-fundamentalists who have come out will say, "Your parents will come around." We even start to believe that this must be true, although we know on some level our families are different. Real different. Our parents cannot "get there" for the most part. My parents finally have a relationship with me, just barely. The other thing I especially appreciated about this book was that it dealt with the "forces of evil" focus of these churches. [The only other book I've seen that addressed this was Jeanette Winterson's "Oranges are not the Only Fruit," a classic.] For all the talk of love, conservative churches put a lot of energy into fear of evil. Some churches say being gay is demon possession. Others literally believe God may strike us dead. Mr. Miller endured numerous veiled threats to his life from Christians. It's bizarre and if you've been there, it's frightening, because you know these people will do anything they truly believe is God's will. But it was good to read someone else's story acknowledging that this goes on.

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