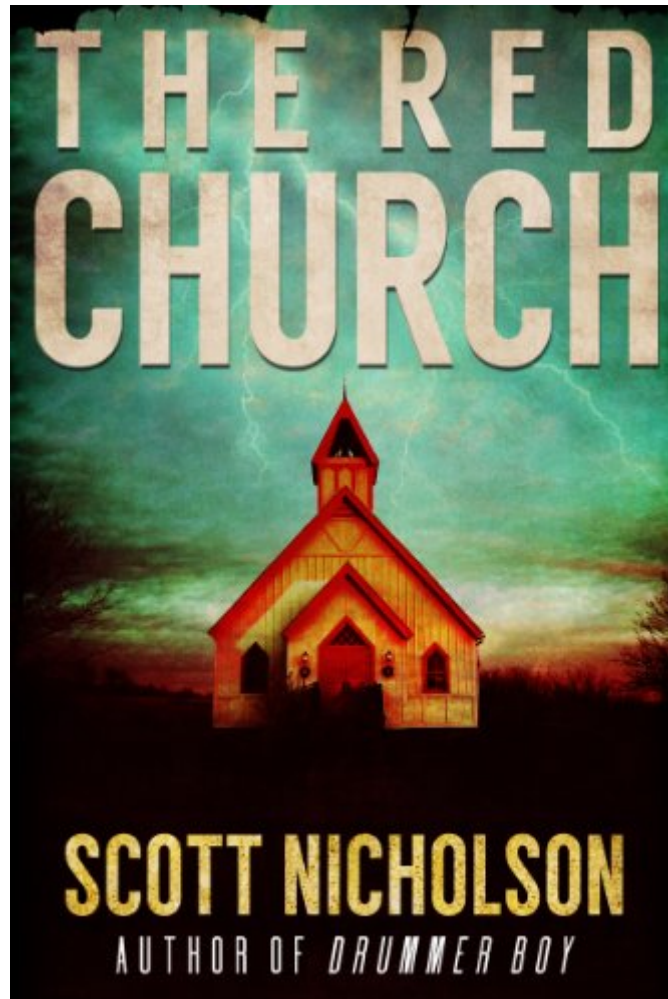


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The Red Church: A Supernatural Thriller (Sheriff Littlefield Books Book 1)



Synopsis

Stoker Award finalist with more than 100,000 copies sold, from the international bestselling author of McFALL and DRUMMER BOY. A boy and a sheriff must solve the mystery of a haunted Appalachian church when a strange preacher returns to town. "Like Stephen King, he knows how to summon serious scares. My advice? Buy everything he writes." - Bentley Little, The Haunted "Nobody thrills like Nicholson does. Nobody." -- J.A. Konrath, The List THE RED CHURCH For 13-year-old Ronnie Day, life is full of problems: Mom and Dad have separated, his brother Tim is a constant pest, Melanie Ward either loves him or hates him, and Jesus Christ won't stay in his heart. Plus he has to walk past the red church every day, where the Bell Monster hides with its wings and claws and livers for eyes. But the biggest problem is that Archer McFall is the new preacher at the church, and Mom wants Ronnie to attend midnight services with her. Sheriff Frank Littlefield hates the red church for a different reason. His little brother died in a freak accident at the church twenty years ago, and now Frank is starting to see his brother's ghost. And the ghost keeps demanding, "Free me." People are dying in Whispering Pines, and the murders coincide with McFall's return. The Days, the Littlefields, and the McFalls are descendants of the original families that settled the rural Appalachian community. Those old families share a secret of betrayal and guilt, and McFall wants his congregation to prove its faith. Because he believes he is the Second Son of God, and that the cleansing of sin must be done in blood. "Sacrifice is the currency of God," McFall preaches, and unless Frank and Ronnie stop him, everybody pays. ----- Scott Nicholson is author of 20 thriller, including the AFTER series, THE HOME, LIQUID FEAR, and SPEED DATING WITH THE DEAD. ----- "Scott Nicholson is the kind of writer who always thrills and always entertains." -- Jonathan Maberry, Patient Zero "Scott Nicholson understands that the best horror novels achieve primal fear through a combination of sustained atmosphere, richly drawn characters, and believable if uncanny evils that draw unholy power from everyday lives. The Red Church is a damn scary story well told." -- Christopher Ransom, author of the international bestseller, The Birthing House "A master of atmospheric suspense." -- Eric Wilson, NY Times bestselling novelist

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Customer Reviews

This was the first Scott Nicholson book I've read. I won't bother summarizing the story because so many other reviewers have already done that. I'll just focus on what I liked and didn't like. First the good: I was impressed with the writing, and the story was very engaging. You are able to see the story unfold through several of the characters' perspectives. The main character is a young teenage boy (Ronnie Day), but you also get glimpses into the mind of his father, mother, the sheriff, and several other characters as well. I enjoyed this aspect of the novel. I also enjoyed the level of suspense that was injected into the storyline. I was truly immersed in the story. Now the bad: I was a little uncomfortable with the religious themes in this novel. I have attended several Southern Baptist churches throughout my life (including several as a child). I was a little bit put off by the author's portrayal of the teaching of salvation by Baptists. Throughout the novel, Ronnie (a Baptist) worries about whether or not he is truly saved. His preacher "senses" every few Sundays that Ronnie needs to be saved again, despite the fact that he has already asked Jesus into his heart. This leaves Ronnie without the assurance that he is truly saved and that Jesus lives in his heart. Ronnie agonizes over this very issue repeatedly throughout the book. This was very much the opposite of what I have observed over the years in several different Baptist churches. Baptist doctrine firmly teaches "once saved, always saved." Baptists believe that if you truly believe that Christ was the son of God, that he died on the Cross for our sins and rose again, and if you ask for forgiveness of your sins, you are eternally assured of your salvation. There is no need for a repeat.

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