

About the Book

Jerry Fabyanic, author of *Sisyphus Wins*

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Can you be who you authentically are and still be accepted by those most important to you?

Jonathan Slovanco finds comfort and safety both in his large family that has been traumatized due to a devastating tragedy and in the Catholic Church. But as he matures, he realizes that a fundamental difference between him and other boys may alienate him from everything and everyone he holds dear.

When he is confronted with the cold truth that he is on his own, Jonathan is faced with the decision whether to leave his family and friends and his church to uncover the truth of his being. During that struggle, he realizes that his journey is his to walk and that only he can resolve the conflicts he faces: with himself, his family, society, and his church. It is only in the realm of nature that he finds himself at peace.

As a teacher of American literature, Jonathan teaches his students that great works of fiction are “more true” than non-fiction because they deal with universal truths. It is in them, particularly in the story of the “unconquering whale,” *Moby Dick*, he is able to sort out and make sense of the conflicting aspects of his life.

It is, thus, in those works and in nature that Jonathan begins to find his truth and to discover his innate courage.

For Jonathan, coming to self-acceptance is difficult enough. Coupling that with the courage needed to reveal his genuine self to his family feels like a Sisyphian effort.

Back Story

Sisyphus Wins is my first serious foray into writing fiction. The novel, emanating from a place deep within the unconscious, tells an archetypal story of a boy trying to make sense of the reality of his being and the reality of growing up within a non-embracing, non-empathetic, and even hostile

cultural and religious environment. While the story is in context of sexual identity, my hope is that the story resonates with anyone who has found him or herself caught in a personal maelstrom when coming to grips with the truth of their life's story.

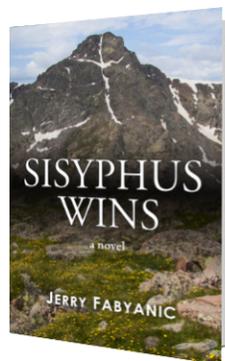
Writing *Sisyphus Wins* was a life-impacting process. At the moment I sent the manuscript to my editor Melanie Mulhall, I began to grasp the profundity of the transformation that had taken place over the five-plus years of writing. The piece is very different from when I began the writing process. And so am I. The magic of creative expression.

When reading, you might pick up on the symbolism, metaphor, and allegory woven throughout the tale. While those elements are used to enhance the story, they are also keys to understand how I perceive the unfolding of the universe. Having said that though, a lesson I work on is to understand that two events unfolding simultaneously are merely coincidental and not synchronistic. I touch on that in the final chapter.

In the end, *Sisyphus Wins* is the story of one life journey. As the story's protagonist Jonathan explains to Benjamin, everyone has one.

To that end, I invite you to read, reflect, and respond.

Blessings and Peace



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