

***The Gospel of Winter***

Brendan Kiely

Reviewed by: Antonella Risi, 15

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Set during the Christmas season, teenager Aidan Donovan finds himself in a crumbling family- his father has left his family and his mother can only do so much. He feels that the only one he can turn to is his local priest, Father Greg. However, once he sees Father Greg's darker intentions with boys like him and younger, he feels his world is falling apart around him. Sophie, the wild girl, Josie, the girl he falls in love with, and Mark, the boy who has secrets of his own to deal with, all stand by him and help him make sense of his life.

Kiely's debut novel had me rushing to finish it, but also stopping and pondering the characters in this story and from the real world. *The Gospel of Winter* dives into the world where Pastors and leaders of the church abuse their boys, as we have seen far too often before. This is easily my favorite book written by Kiely, and I recommend it for teenagers and older due to sexual content, language, use of drugs, and the subject of abuse.