

# Review of Stolen Grace

## HOLLYWOOD BOOK REVIEW

### Jack Chambers

One of the hardest realizations a person can come to in this life is to realize that we are human, and as such are prone to imperfection, no matter how much we strive to be otherwise. The moment comes in our lives when we make a decision that turns out to be the wrong one, and that begins the path to redemption. Acknowledging our faults and knowing the need to make things right makes us human, and as Brendan Fraser once said, "I guess darkness serves a purpose: to show us that there is redemption through chaos. I believe in that. I think that's the basis of Greek mythology."

In author Rev Errol E. Leslie's *Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church*, the author shares a heartfelt and personal story of his own redemption after a mistake in his personal life turned into a personal and professional nightmare. After a mistake on his part, the Reverend's ministry is put into question and his status as a leader within the church is removed as a result of a false accusation, the author must go on a journey to learn the laws of the church and fight for the truth as he makes amends for the mistake that began this nightmare and forces the truth out of the darkness and into the light.

The author did a fantastic job of crafting the perfect balance of faith and religion-based discussion with personal experience within the Methodist church and the legal system as a whole. The painful and intimate way the author examines his own precluding actions and acknowledges his mistakes was a refreshing change of pace for a narrative of this stature, as the author was able to separate the wrongs done to him while still owning up to his decisions to enter into a relationship outside his marriage that led to these complaints with the church.

This is the perfect read for those who enjoy non-fiction memoirs with a hint of religious and spiritual text, and personal stories of fighting for truth and justice. One

thing which really stood out was the way the author was able to incorporate documentation and legal discoveries regarding the rights of those within the inner structures of the United Methodist Church. The way the author was able to give so much detail regarding the experiences he had within this process showcased the rarely seen behind-the-scenes stories of organized religions and the politics that go on behind closed doors.

Thoughtful, engaging, and haunting in its delivery, author Rev Errol E. Leslie's *Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church* is a must-read book. The themes of redemption, forgiveness, and moving forward were well explored throughout this book, as was the concept of justice and the need to free the truth to really get a handle on how life is behind the scenes of an organization such as this. The author's painful struggles and willingness to open up and share the mistakes and strives towards forgiveness they made while also fighting for his rights in the process made this such a powerful story to read!

# ONLINEBOOKCLUB.ORG REVIEWS

## Walter R

07 Feb 2022, 09:35

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

We witness corruption, unjust treatment, and discrimination in various places. It is pretty shocking to discover that these vices have found their way into areas that preach equality, forgiveness, and love. It is even more disheartening that the church is one of these places.

In *Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church*, Rev Errol E. Leslie tells the story of his call to ministry and how his work in the United Methodist Church was disrupted by a mistake which the leaders of the church decided to punish him so harshly for. The book begins with the author's note on a genuine call to ministry, in which he states, supporting with Bible passages, that a simple call to serve God will survive all threats.

This book has a lot of positive aspects. It follows a true story, and it is very relatable. Recently, we have had several women speak up against the harsh treatments they received from men; this has made society move towards getting justice for women who have been allegedly maltreated. However, as in all claims, there is always another side of the story that should be heard before blind support is given to a claimant. This crucifixion before getting to the root of a matter is what the author suffers in this book.

It was painful to see how the author's career got destroyed due to an accusation that stemmed from a weave of lies and a half-truth. Rev Errol was judged without being allowed to defend himself properly, and this goes a long way in reiterating the principle of "hear both sides." The book provides reassurance that we all experience life issues at some point. It examines the strong possibility that certain actions of individuals are responses to issues they have gone through or are going through. The author strongly speaks against being judgmental and seeks to understand people

better. The book contains story-like testimonies that drive home enshrined messages, images, and texts supporting the author's claims. The author provides several examples to illustrate his disgust at the actions of a set of people who sought to punish him unjustly and offers hope while passing his message across.

I did not find any negative aspects of this book. I also did not find any errors in the book. It was exceptionally well edited.

I rate this book four out of four stars because it was a fantastic read, and there was nothing to dislike about it. Although I believe Christians would appreciate the book better due to the use of certain Bible passages by the author to drive home his point, I would also recommend this book to lovers of memoirs, human rights activists, and people in search of the truth.

# Pencrafter

05 Feb 2022, 19:24

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

We witness corruption, unjust treatment, and discrimination in various places. It is pretty shocking to discover that these vices have found their way into areas that preach equality, forgiveness, and love. It is even more disheartening that the church is one of these places.

In *Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church*, Rev Errol E. Leslie tells the story of his call to ministry and how his work in the United Methodist Church was disrupted by a mistake which the leaders of the church decided to punish him so harshly for. The book begins with the author's note on a genuine call to ministry, in which he states, supporting with Bible passages, that a simple call to serve God will survive all threats.

This book has a lot of positive aspects. It follows a true story, and it is very relatable. Recently, we have had several women speak up against the harsh treatments they received from men; this has made society move towards getting justice for women who have been allegedly maltreated. However, as in all claims, there is always another side of the story that should be heard before blind support is given to a claimant. This crucifixion before getting to the root of a matter is what the author suffers in this book.

It was painful to see how the author's career got destroyed due to an accusation that stemmed from a weave of lies and a half-truth. Rev Errol was judged without being allowed to defend himself properly, and this goes a long way in reiterating the principle of "hear both sides." The book provides reassurance that we all experience life issues at some point. It examines the strong possibility that certain actions of individuals are responses to issues they have gone through or are going through. The author strongly speaks against being judgmental and seeks to understand people better. The book contains story-like testimonies that drive home enshrined messages,

images, and texts supporting the author's claims. The author provides several examples to illustrate his disgust at the actions of a set of people who sought to punish him unjustly and offers hope while passing his message across.

I did not find any negative aspects of this book. I also did not find any errors in the book. It was exceptionally well edited.

I rate this book four out of four stars because it was a fantastic read, and there was nothing to dislike about it. Although I believe Christians would appreciate the book better due to the use of certain Bible passages by the author to drive home his point, I would also recommend this book to lovers of memoirs, human rights activists, and people in search of the truth.

Walter R

- A) Post by Walter R » 07 Feb 2022, 09:35 Yes, it is indeed sad that the church has also become a symbol of corruption. Great review.
- B) Post by mnyazi dzuya » 07 Feb 2022, 11:54 I love reading memoirs. Stolen Grace is one of the books I would like to read through. How the author gets rescued by God; and how he made it through the painful journey of his career is intriguing. I would like to see the positive aspects and the painful journey of his career. I love how this book has been well-reviewed.
- C) I love memoir like this as there are several takeaways from it. I so eager to know what Rev. Errol was punished for.
- D) The church is one place that is supposed to feel safe, unfortunately it doesn't. Nice review!
- E) Post by bhattuc » 07 Feb 2022, 18:31 The review is evoking interest in me for going for more details by going through the book maybe at a later time. Thanks for the excellent review.
- F) Post by Joseph Kasapo » 08 Feb 2022, 01:05 Great review. It is sad how the church is becoming weak when it comes to such issues.
- G) Post by Blison-+ » 08 Feb 2022, 07:55 How God Rescued the author from the jaws and claws from the UMC, And how painful to see his career got destroyed. Good review!
- H) Post by Fine Brand » 08 Feb 2022, 09:38 This book talks about real life experiences and I can relate. Great review.

- I) Post by eniola matthew » 08 Feb 2022, 11:40 hmm true life story 😬 and experience, I can relate. Nice 😊 review
- J) Post by Sarah Dogbatse » 11 Feb 2022, 17:59 The book talks a lot about how our churches are being destroyed with corruption. It's painful how Rev Errol E Leslie's job got destroyed. But in all God was with him and rescued him from the UMC. Great review
- K) Post by Walter R » 13 Feb 2022, 07:54 Have never really been a great fan of memoirs. Great review.
- L) Post by LOAM » 13 Feb 2022, 21:00Great review. It is sad how the church is becoming weak when it comes to such issues. Great review
- M)Post by Raymond N » 16 Feb 2022, 01:12 Sad to know that we are really quick to criticize and punish people without hearing the full story. Thank you for the review.
- N) Post by Segunjohn » 04 Apr 2022, 11:21 Thank you for a well detailed and honest review. I've always loved nonfiction books and this sounds like one I'll definitely love to have for myself.

# VOLUNTEER REVIEWS

## **Bishop Thankgod**

06 Jun 2022, 11:05

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

There is a high possibility that every one of us will experience problems that will shake us or negatively affect us, no matter how small or big. These could come from financial problems, emotional problems, health problems, or even relationship problems. How do we deal with these problems when we are faced with them? If we make mistakes in the course of dealing with these problems, are these mistakes ones that we can easily be dug out of?

In *Stolen Grace: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church*, Rev. Errol E. Leslie recounts his experiences with the United Methodist Church. The author is confident that his call to ministry is a genuine call from God as he uses a story recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 5, to explain. However, does a genuine call from God assure a smooth road? Rev. Leslie is put to the test. Does he succumb to temptation?

I honestly enjoyed every single thing about this book. Even though it was a non-fiction book and one that dealt with hearings in a church, I felt at certain times that I was the judge, going through the evidence, reading documents presented before me, and wondering what the author deserved. This was the effect that the author's inclusion of these documents had on me. I liked how the documents and reports contained dates, especially those of the Reverend's wife. It helped display the credibility of the story, and testimonies from individuals helped to show that the author was not just trying to clear his name but that, indeed, he was telling the truth.

The book talked about a wide range of things, which was pleasant. It discussed struggles in marriages and the importance of communication and change in marriages. By reading this book, I learned that partners should be able to not only listen to the complaints of one another but effect changes in the necessary areas to



maintain relationships. I was saddened by the fact that the injustice the author faced was done by people who were called to serve God and in a place that should supposedly be the home of forgiveness, love, and a nonjudgmental space. It was so painful to see how the author suffered based on false accusations by a woman and a church unwilling to carry out necessary investigations. His fate had already been decided before a trial even commenced. I love the author's persistence and how he maintains his call even after all the struggles. This quality is worthy of emulation and one that would be helpful in our lives. There were also different stories or testimonies in the book that house strong themes like physical and sexual abuse. The author's mistakes teach us to seek solutions in better places, and I appreciate that he acknowledges his mistakes.

The thing I liked least about this book was the fact that it seemed we were hearing from just one of the parties. Although the book seems packed with evidence corroborating the author's side of the story, for fairness, I would have appreciated hearing more from the other party too. Nevertheless, I rate this book four out of four stars because, first, there were no errors in the book; it was exceptionally well edited. Also, I could write a short book about what I liked about this book, and I applaud the author for that.

I recommend this book to people who enjoy memoirs and people going through struggles in their lives. This book houses a lot of lessons and provides reassurance that you are indeed loved.

- A) Stolen Grace from what I can grasp from your review is a fantastic book filled with life lessons. I am not a fan of nonfiction books, but I would love to read this.
- B) I love that the author was honest in telling his story. I would love to read more about the test which the author faced and whether or not he survived. Thank you for this wonderful review.
- C) This is an incredible story of perseverance, faith and persistence. I think from your review I would like to know how the reverend was able to get out of the mess. Your review is nothing short of impressive and you seemed to have captured every necessary thought about this book. Thank you for recommending it.

D) Can you describe a book as beautiful? That is what this one is. I was amazed by your review as it touched on different aspects of this book, and I feel motivated to go back to it again. The author did an amazing job.

E) The title of this book showing how God rescued the author from the jaws and claws of the United Methodist church shows that a lot has to be done to keep our places of worship safe for us. I was expecting to see that he later got the justice he deserved.

F) I believe that we do not talk about the challenges that marriage brings enough. It's nice seeing or to see books like this that throw more light on it. Impressively this review has left an impression on me, one that would make me want to read this book.

G) Quite honest of you to point out the fact that the book might have been read from just one angle. However, I believe it is the authors story to tell. I would be looking forward to reading this book too. I enjoyed your review.

H) Sparingly do we see a review that said that said they enjoyed everything about a book. It must speak volumes of the quality of the book. Considering all that you have said, I see no reason why I or anyone would not pick this book up to read. Great job.

I) You have put together quite an amazing and mind-blowing review. I like how you itemized each thing you liked about the book. However, I have my hands full at the moment and I really doubt I would be able to read this book. Maybe one day I will read about Rev. Carol and his ordeal. Thumbs up.

J) " If we make mistakes in the course of dealing with these problems, are these mistakes ones that we can easily be dug out of?" This question above made me have a rethink as I read your review just now. In my opinion, you did a fantastic job reviewing this book.

K) Quite fascinating to see that you thoroughly enjoyed almost everything about this book. The favourite part of your review I liked the most was where you mentioned that the author was abandoned by the church. A church is supposed to be a place of justice, too bad the author did not experience this.

L) I know a lot of people that would find this book very helpful and would appreciate it. As a lover of memoirs, myself I'm glad I came across this. I would certainly want to read it. Also, I encourage men and women alike to speak out on issues like these when they are faced with it.

# Orihime Inoue

05 Jun 2022, 08:28

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

God found me after I went astray and the bible tells me that the angels in heaven do rejoice over one sinner that repent";

The non-fiction book titled *STOLEN GRACE* which has 518 pages was written by Rev Errol E. Leslie.

The book gives full details on the challenges the author passed through in his ministry and how he was cut up in the web of temptation.

This is a true story of a pastor who broke the moral rules of the church and how he was severely punished by the church discipline committee even though most of the allegations were false, it tells of how he was humiliated not only in his ministry, but all around the environment

The book is well detailed and very much relatable, the writer made sure to use words that are easily understood and the fact that he was able to build a connection with his readers is one of the reasons why i highly recommend this particular book.

Rev Errol E. Leslie wrote this book in order to show people what the life of a pastor is like, he made sure to state all the common temptation faced without leaving the fact that pastors can also be depressed and feel unloved like every other human being.

I will rate the book a 3 out of 4, because the writer did not only state the situations he faced, but also stated the way and manner in which he was able to be free from those temptation and find his way back to God.

The only issue I had while reading this book, was the fact that the writer made it too lengthy, which he should have avoided in consideration of the readers.

It is well detailed, well explained and very much relatable. According to the writer the book is a medium to announce to his friends, family, colleague's and to the rest of the world that he was once a lost sheep, but he is now found. I personal recommend this book for Christians and the general public too.

# Emmanuel Phiri 8

04 Jun 2022, 10:47

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

The church is the place people expect to find justice, grace, and mercy but if people are failing to see it in there where else shall they find it? If those in a position to preach the truth and enforce justice are the ones abusing it how will the world end up be like? It pains seeing those in a position to lead by example behaving like mad or people without morals.

Stolen grace by Rev Errol E Leslie Is a Christian book based on the true-life story of a pastor born and grow up in a small village in Haddo, Westmoreland, on the island of Jamaica who was betrayed treated harshly by those he trusted to offer him mercy and justice after crossing moral lines. One day he crossed moral line when he chose to fall in love with his school friend in pursuit of finding the peace and happiness he was lacking in his family. When the move and all attempts by the new lover to destroy the pastor's marriage for her to be married with him fell after the pastor came to his mind that he took the wrong path she vowed to destroy the pastor's life by reporting him to his church bishop and falsely accuse him that he defiled her and some other church women. Instead of him apologizing profusely and truly expressing regret and remorse as strongly as sincerely he could have. The staff parish relations committee through the church court system crucified him instead of forgiving him and allow him continue with the journey of ministering the Lord in the same church as they previously did with others who committed a similar offense.

There are many positive things in this book. I love that the book is educating and concise. The book is divided into two parts, with the first explaining how the pastor's birth and spiritual background as well as how the whole thing started, while the second is how the disciplinary hearing went with all the evidence of all the concerned parties and how the curse ended. The book is carrying the hidden abusive church systems of most churches many are lacking eagerness to bring out to the light. It is full of life teaching and eye-opening lessons to those in ministry as well as desiring to be ministers of the gospel and the whole world.

The book is well-edited, and for this reason, am giving it 4 out of 4 stars. I recommend Lost grace for all lovers of none literature works, pastor's, church, and everyone who love to know the truth and learn from the story of other people's rises, falls, and lessons.

# Judith Chepkombet

02 Jun 2022, 09:01

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

The author narrates a memoir of his life odyssey. He shares his life ordeal in the parsonage and which is more of betrayal and pain than glory. The author who was born in a small village in Westmoreland on the island of Jamaica grew up and discovered his passion in the church which he termed a calling from God.

In this memoir, *Stolen Grace* by Rev. Errol E. Leslie, he narrated how he was 'persecuted' in the hands of the United Methodist Church where he served as a Reverend in Palm Bay Florida. The author uses interesting quotes from the bible to relate and describe his situation at the "ruthless" hands of the united Methodist authority that punished him for a mistake humanly erred by himself.

I would equate the plight of the author to have landed in the hands of 'Jezebel' from the biblical scriptures. The author reconnected to an old girlfriend from the past and opines this to have been the beginning of his problems. The lady who at the time lived in Georgia had undergone a divorce and was struggling in another relationship. She sought counseling help from Rev. Leslie and someone to share her troubles. Unfortunately, her second relationship ended as well but by then their relationship with the reverend had started growing to be more intimate. The reverend was having a hard time with his family and the growing intimacy was becoming more of a temptation to his faith and moral precepts.

The author kept my curiosity at par in suspense as he began the book with his plight and revealed how he erred in the later chapters of the book. I also enjoyed how the author related his story to the scriptures going further to even liken some of the characters in his story to characters from the bible. First, he relates his temptation and fall to that of David from the Bible and narrates how he expected the church to handle his issue with grace. However, this was never the case. Secondly, he related some of the heads of the clergy handling his trial with a hardened and ruthless heart to the pharaoh in the time of Moses, the pirate in the persecution of Jesus, and the characters in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Consequently, I found nothing much to dislike in the book except for the formatting which made the reading experience for me a bit tedious. The book had two separate pages appearing on one page hence the need to keep zooming and moving the text to have a clear reading of the text. However, I didn't encounter any typos or grammatical errors and the book was exceptionally well-edited.

Lastly, before I recommend the book, for a caveat, the book had direct quotes and references from the bible. Nonetheless, it is a book that will entertain most readers who love reading good memoirs. I will rate the book 4 out of 4 stars, for the book was entertaining and the reading experience was not much of a bother to deduct a star.

# Roshrk

01 Jun 2022, 01:48

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

*Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church* written by Rev. Errol E. Leslie reveals how God chooses people even when they feel undeserving. The book is a reflective look back on life with the goal of encouraging others to believe.

The author of this book stated that if one examines the persons God used in the Old Testament thoroughly, they will see that many of them failed God at some time. They made terrible mistakes, but God still utilized them. Even Jesus in the New Testament, utilized people who committed mistakes to create his kingdom and church.

Many biblical figures, including Moses, Peter, and Paul, were referenced in the book as examples of people who God utilized despite their flaws and backgrounds. Similarly, regardless of one's personal past, God may use everyone. Jesus' works will be done by pure, simple Christians. Will I obey God and trust Him to reveal His love to others through me? Is the question not, do I deserve to serve him? Or am I talented enough to represent him? We serve the Lord because we are thankful for what He has done for us, not because we are flawless. And the work we perform is more important because it multiplies and increases each time, we show our unending love to someone else.

The author admitted that he made numerous mistakes during his ministry, but he believes that God still has a plan for him and desires to utilize him in ministry. He said God had already demonstrated it to him in an obvious, powerful, and profound way. The author's candor in exposing his own flaws and inadequacies is admirable. When reading the book, it has a breezy vibe to it. The reader will understand that failure is inevitable, but it won't preclude a person from being used by God.

To be honest, I didn't dislike a single aspect of this work. The books appear to be professionally edited. The author's way of writing was appealing to me. This work's validity is enhanced by the addition of a few letters. Biblical references can be found in this work. They appear to be employed by the author to express his or her religious ideas. The book deserves a perfect 4 out of 4 stars. This book is essential reading for ministers, pastors, youth leaders, and church leaders of all ages, professions, and walks of life.

# Andre Francis

31 May 2022, 15:51

*2 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

Stolen Grace by Rev Errol E. Leslie is a personal account of one man's struggle against an unexpected, monolithic foe in the form of the very institution in which he carried out the calling on his life. True perfection, in any regard, is out of the realm of possibility for any man; we can only at best strive towards it and hopefully find the best versions of ourselves. This is often done by adopting a religion, a philosophy, a code of conduct or some other teaching believed to be greater than our limited wisdom. However, whatever the path you may adhere to, I think we all can agree that mistakes are an inescapable part of life; one can only ask that enough grace be extended to them so as to not be buried by the weight of their transgression, so as to one day rise anew. In this 517-page memoir we get a detailed portrayal of Rev Errol E. Leslie's battle to retain just that.

Was not sure what to expect going into this book as it was my first time reading a memoir and honestly, I thought how interesting could a Pastor's autobiography be, even if it did involve some form of scandal? I am surprised to say it gripped me more than I expected, even if only slightly. The way how he presented the actions of the United Methodist Church both enraged and annoyed me all while being reminiscent of a secret sinister organization from an old television series. All this while making you question if there was some ulterior motive and if their actions towards Rev Errol E. Leslie was just a misdirect for something deeper. I also admired how the Reverend's character shined through, that even after having gone through what he did, his depiction of these series of events was not deliberately disrespectful to those involved.

That being said, after the first few chapters this read was still a slog to get through. It became repetitive to the point where at times I thought I had made a mistake and was reading a past chapter again. The extensive use of legal jargon and several testimonials did not make it any easier either, as at times I wondered if I was reading a memoir or studying for a law degree. Also, the letter was barely legible, I would have appreciated if it was type as well as show in the book. Though I do understand



that these legalities were an important part of his depiction of these events, the detail in which it was presented felt like unnecessary padding and almost drowned out the message of the book. Also, though Rev Errol E. Leslie does have my sympathy for what he went through and he comes across as penitent for his role in all of this, something just feels off about it. Yes, the actions of the United Methodist Church are at the very least questionable but his fault in all of this seems too downplayed. Though I guess that is par for the course with personal accounts.

So, after some careful consideration, I have to hand down a rating of 2 out of 4 stars. I wanted to like this book more as he is native to my country and we are of the same religion but I believe it was over written and honestly, I felt more sorry for those who got caught in the cross fire, such as the family and congregants, than the Reverend himself. Just to clarify though, I do understand where the author is coming from, bearing his soul to present his side of the story after he, his family and members of his congregation were put through such a grueling and public ordeal. So, in that regard I appreciate Stolen Grace for what it is.

Not trying to be cynical but I believe this book would be a good read as a case study for anyone involved in law, whether as professional or just an enthusiast. Also, it definitely should be required reading for anyone in or considering pastoral work or anything of a similar capacity to act as a reminder of the weight of such a role. Ultimately though, this is for anyone who feels suffocated while facing the consequences of their mistake, you are not your mistake and God's grace is sufficient for you.

# Hazel Mae B

30 May 2022, 02:10

*3 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

Stolen Grace is a memoir of the very own author Rev Errol E Leslie. This book is about Errol Leslie's case which tend to describe of some pastors as an "ecclesiastical death penalty" which means that he was no longer considered a member of the clergy within the United Methodist Church. He was being charged of immorality, sexual misconduct and disobedience to the order and discipline of the United Methodist Church because he was being complain with his involvement in an illegitimate relationship with a woman which he suspected was having a mental issue. The case has not given a fair process due to some church errors. This book represents that how big our faith is, that's how big our problem is. Read this book to find out how the author's journey ended.

I like how detailed the book is. It moved me with mix emotions from beginning to end. Every chapter thrills me where excitement exceed boredom which is a good sign that the book is interesting. The book gave many life lessons which is awakening. It taught how important to obey rules not only for earthly attainment but heavenly pursuit as well. The author's story is heart-touching. I felt sorry when he put into involuntary leave of absence which affects him emotionally, mentally and financially. He was treated unfairly of the church leaders while the case is ongoing which is very biased on his part. It was an emotional part of the book that made me reflect that for just one mistake, it can definitely change the atmosphere of treatment around you. There's so much lessons to learn from this book.

I found only one unlikeable aspect of this book, that is the PDF format. It contains two pages of the book in a single PDF page. This formatting problem bothers me at some point in sliding back and forth and zooming in. I spotted only one typo, thus the editing of the book was made by professional.

Because of the positive aspects and negative aspects of the book, I rate Stolen Grace 3 out of 4 stars.

I recommend this book to lovers of memoirs. Readers who love intriguing story would find this book appealing. Although the book tackled Christian case and contains Christian passages but it's not preachy. The book is still relatable to people outside Christianity. It is a must-read book.

# Peter Marumbu

12 May 2022, 04:02

*3 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

Stolen Grace is a book by Rev Errol E. Leslie who tries to share chronicles of experience on how he worked hard to maintain his Christianity integrity and be able to abide by the rules and the words of the bible. The author was initially a preacher and also a minister and at that time he was facing many challenges personally in his life. He was faced with a tempting sound that made him come closer to God and at the time he fell much tempted in his Christianity life hence he decided on the many ways of getting a solution. Therefore, the author tries hard so as not to follow the bad habits of the world but to change the normal people to hear the good news of the church. Hence this book is woven to give a clear understanding of how the author worked to gain knowledge about Christ.

The book is based on the author's personal experience, history, and extensive research he did to decide on whether he will continue with his initial ministry or change to a different one. Author Rev Errol E. Leslie explains more on how to choose the right path for our children and bits of advice us to have the right path for our children and advise us to have the right persons who our children may follow as their mentors for guidance.

The author tells us, "The most humiliating thing for my wife as she reported the incident to me was that he sat down and watched her pack everything and kept ordering her around like she was a criminal." Page 512. The author explains the instance when his wife was asked to appear before the pastor and how she was treated in a manner that was not appealing to the author, hence this shows that we should uphold humanity and treat one another with the utmost respect.

The book is written well and riveted in a wonderful order. I liked the way the author provided information of the correct stature concerning all the occurrences, this was nice and made me more interested in reading this book up to the last page. This book is exceptionally edited, this is because I found zero errors in it. I appreciated almost every chapter because of how the author had arranged the facts intriguing and the

knowledge was real. This book has increased my interest in learning more about fulfilling my Christianity role.

I rate Stolen Grace 4 out of 4 stars because it is timely presented and authentic to this period. It is also produced significantly and has a charter index with much information which is educative. I recommend this book to all the youths and elder persons in the society who may need to get more guidance on how to become a much better ministers of the word of God.

# Elagbemi057

12 May 2022, 16:24

*3 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

When a Christian backslides, many other Christians sit back and laugh at his error and judge his action. It is only in Christianity that a wounded soldier is allowed to die.

Stolen Grace by Rev. Errol Leslie is a memoir that is centered on the life and ministry of the author who was a pastor in the United Methodist Church (UMC). His call to ministry has remained strong since he was 13. This was when he first ministered on the pulpit to teach Sunday school. His sole aim was to pursue a ministry in music but when it did not work out, he served God through the pastoral ministry. After serving the church for forty years, his pastoral ministry within the United Methodist Church was terminated, and never given another chance due to extramarital affairs he had with his old schoolmate. This happened at a time when he was facing a lot of difficulties in his marriage. His punishment was what pastors in UMC described as “Ecclesiastical Death”, meaning that he was no longer considered a member of the clergy. This punishment was so severe to the extent that the Florida Methodist Conference made sure that they did more damage to his character and reputation such that no other church will ever consider him as their pastor. He was so depressed and lost focus till he received mercy from God.

What got my interest in this book was how the writer described and related his challenges to some other stories in the Holy Bible. This helped to make it more understandable.

But the storyline was very long and there are repetitions of events which made the book boring in the middle.

The book was well proofread and edited. I found very few errors in it and so I would rate this book 3 out of 4 stars.

I recommend this book to Christians and those who might be passing through some difficulties or challenges in life and are looking for redemption. God never

condemns or forsakes his own. I would also recommend this book to those who want to know more about the Methodist Church code of conduct.

Post by Emiglee » 17 May 2022, 19:45

- A) "It is only in Christianity that a wounded soldier is allowed to die" such powerful and true words. It's sad to see how many Christians forget the role of encouragement and pick up judgement instead. I would love to read this book to see how he got back on his feet. This is a lovely review.
- B) It's funny how people expect pastors to be perfect when they are not. It's like we all just forget that they're humans too. That they pass through the same temptations that afflict the average person. We can be so severe in our judgements and this book seeks to remind us that they too deserve the grace which we enjoy. Lovely review!

Post by LadyWhyte3 » 18 May 2022, 08:10

- C) Christianity carries the weight of perfection to the outside world and this is detrimental to our growth as a religion. This is not to say that chess should live carelessly. But we should understand that we're all humans and bound to make mistakes . Thank you for this well written review.

# Oluwanifesimi

01 May 2022, 08:51

*3 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

Stolen Grace by Rev Errol E Leslie, is a memoir that revolves around the life and ministry of the writer, who was a pastor in the United Methodist Church. His call to the ministry had been strong since he was young; he was faithful and served the church diligently. When he was sixty years of age and thirty-eight years in the ministry, he encountered a huge challenge in his ministry work when he made a decision that was against the law of the church. He had negative issues in his marriage and chose to have extra-marital affairs with a schoolmate he met. Although he tried to keep it a secret, it later leaked to his wife and then to the district superintendent of his church. He was indicted for sexual misconduct and punished. The church leaders did not show him mercy. As a pastor ordained by God, he was determined to overcome his struggles, do you think his ministry ends there? How did the church find out? Was his wife able to handle it?

The first thing I admired about the book is that the author explained the challenges he faced by including some documents rendered at the time as references in the story, which makes the story more understandable to the readers. Another positive aspect of the story was the last part, where the author relates the inhumane action of the church leaders with the corrupt practices of the leaders of the country.

Although I was able to pick out some positive aspects of the story, I was also able to highlight some negative things in the story. The story is lengthy; the writer kept making repetitions of some incidents; these affected my enjoyment of the story, as they made it boring and long-winded. I felt the case should not have been a prolonged one, even if it was so at the time it happened. While the book of discipline of the United Methodist Church used in the story helps to create a better understanding for readers, one who is not familiar with the law and operation of the United Methodist Church may still find it hard to understand, in some instances in the story.

The story is a very good one. It has a captivating title that is synonymous with its narration. Although the book was adequately edited, I was able to find a few grammatical and spelling errors. Therefore, I will rate this book a 3 out of 4 stars.

I recommend this book to patient readers and those familiar with the Methodist Church.

- A) Pastors in the church are open to lots of temptations, as they are humans just like us, so it's very possible to fall into one. It takes a lot of self-control and grace of God to overcome them. I will love to read about this pastor's experience and how he was able to scale through the process. This is an awesome review.
- B) Pastors are also humans too. They are not perfect and sometimes go through life challenges not to be condemned but to be better. I would love to read this book to know how he handled it all. This is a wonderful review. Thanks to it, I am very curious to know what would happen.
- C) Just shows how nobody is above the flesh and We are prone to mistakes. It's how we react to that makes us human. Thanks for your honest review
- D) Post by Jhoycekira » 05 May 2022, 05:09 Such a great review you have there. It feels nice to know pastors also go through temptations like the rest of us in the church. I am rather curious about the challenges he must have faced and the whole process of his comeback.
- E) Post by Rexan » 05 May 2022, 13:03 Before they became pastors, they were human. Pastors are humans too. A wonderful review.
- F) Post by Elijah0007 » 06 May 2022, 05:52 It's hard to feel pity for someone who cheats on his wife, even harder when the person is a pastor. Still I am impressed that the author mustered the courage to reveal his personal life in this manner. Nice review.
- G) Post by Matire » 07 May 2022, 13:33 I can only imagine the embarrassment he had to go through as a religious leader due to a moment of weakness. The author's ability to actually document this is admirable also. I look forward to reading it soon. This is an amazing review.
- H) Post by Israel10 » 11 May 2022, 10:06 I am not quite a fan of memoirs but this looks like quite an interesting book based on your review. Would definitely love to have this on my shelf.
- I) He must have heard a difficult time and been ashamed. The church is a place where all sinners are welcome and everybody is a human prone to mistakes.



# Annie Rae

28 Apr 2022, 14:51

*4 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

It is absolutely true that corruption, unfair treatment, and discrimination have indeed had their way in different places of the world. It is sad to figure that this depravity has found its way into places that strongly speak against these vices. It is even more heartbreaking and disappointing that the church is among the unfortunate areas.

In *Stolen Grace* by Rev Errol E. Leslie, the author tells us a story of his call to ministry and how his work in the United Methodist was disrupted by a very minor mistake, which he was punished thoroughly for by the leaders of the church without even giving him a chance to speak for himself. It is sad to see how the author's career was disrupted because of an accusation that was created from absolute lies and half-truths. He was punished without even listening to his very side of the story, which went against the strict rule of hearing from both sides, which was least anticipated from the church. The author strongly speaks against being so criticizing and seeks to understand people better. The author makes many illustrations to demonstrate his disgust at the action of the same set of people who, out of their foolishness, sort to punish him unjustly and offers hope while passing his message across. The book guarantees and promises that we surely will pass through many difficult situations and issues in life at a point. It analyzes the strong rate of possibility that definite action of the individual answers to problems they have probably passed through or are currently going through. The story begins with the writer's note on an authentic and real call to ministry, in which he states endorsing and recommends with Bible verses that a simple call to service will survive all threats.

The book has a lot of positive aspects. It is a nonfictional story and very understanding. In our society today, we have several women speak up against the unjust treatment they receive from men. This has made many organizations be created to get justice for women who have been allegedly maltreated. So I urge people looking into matters like this to look into the other side of the story, which should be heard before moving on with any judgment that is going to be dished.

Execution before getting to the root of the matter is what the author suffers, which could cause harm if repeated elsewhere.

I didn't find any negative aspects in this book. I also didn't witness any errors while reading it, it was professionally edited.

I, therefore, rate this book 4 out of 4 stars because it was fabulous, and there was nothing to despise about the book. Though I believe that Christians will appreciate this book more due to the use of some bible verses by the author, I also recommend this book to people in search of truth and memoir lovers.

# Londiwe Mkhize 3

10 Apr 2022, 08:59

*3 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

Stolen Grace by Rev Errol Leslie is a novel that reassures us that we all face problems in life. It's a thriller novel with a lot of heart. He was raised in Haddo, Westmoreland, Jamaica, in a small community. He grew up in a small church of around 25 people. He was called to teach Sunday school at the age of thirteen. He was the leader of the church's youth group by the age of sixteen, and by the age of eighteen, he was a co-youth director for an entire Methodist circuit. Reverend Errol believes he was motivating and encouraging young people at both levels of leadership. He believed that these leadership positions were preparing him for the bigger call to pastoral leadership that God was laying on his life.

By September 1974, the author had enrolled in a seminary and graduated in June 1978. He loved it because he was able to use his talent for pastoral ministry to serve Christ. Within a year of arriving, his membership in the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas was transferred to the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. He made a decision that signaled the end of his ministry inside the United Methodist Church after nearly 40 years of service. The author's career was ruined at that point. The Reverend Errol was judged without being given the opportunity to defend himself properly because of an accusation based on a web of lies. His ministry as a pastor in the United Methodist Church came to an end. The author passionately opposes being judgmental and wants to obtain a deeper understanding of others.

Regrettably, the church has also become a symbol of corruption, inequitable treatment, and discrimination. It's disheartening to see that even in communities that preach equality, forgiveness, and love, there is trauma and people who lack compassion. There are many great parts to this book. It's based on a true story that's easy to relate to. It was heartbreaking to learn that women had spoken up against men's mistreatment of them. What I enjoy about this book is how far society has progressed in seeking justice for women who have allegedly been mistreated.

Finally, one aspect of this work that I despise is Rev. Errol's unfair punishment. In editing the manuscript, the author made tremendous progress. It was an excellent read. I rate this book 3 out of 4 stars. Because the author uses certain Bible verses, I feel Christians will like reading this story. I also didn't see any grammatical or typographical issues. There was no swearing. I recommend this book to pastors and others who are seeking the truth.

# Gabriela Contreras

24 Oct 2022, 20:01

*3 out of 4 stars*

Book Cover

How would you feel if you could no longer do that which you were called to do because of a lie? How would you feel if one mistake destroyed your whole life? How would you feel if you were branded as unforgivable?

In *Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church* by Rev Errol E. Leslie tells the story of his call to ministry and how his life and work in the United Methodist Church was terminated by a mistake which the leaders of the church decided was unforgivable.

The book begins with the author sharing how he felt a call to ministry since his teenage years. Moving from Jamaica to the United States, and how, after years of service to the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas.

The book is very relatable, the reader does not need to be religious, or a minister to understand what Rev. Errol E. Leslie was feeling and sharing throughout the book. Rev Errol opens up and discloses how emotionally lonely he felt, and how different aspects of his life made him realize he was not as appreciated as he thought. He even shares details of how complicated and unhappy marriage can be, but we do not need to give up or give in to the desire to find temporary happiness. However, as relatable as the book is, when it comes to human mistakes, I also found the author annoyingly blaming everyone else without admitting his fault in the issues. I understand that he is telling his side of the story, but in my opinion, he is telling is playing the role of the victim, he was taken advantage of by the church, and by his "friend", and he couldn't defend himself on what he admitted. I also felt that he did not regret having an affair.

While this is not necessarily something negative, the author quotes the Bible often, which some readers might not like. I do not think this makes the book only suitable for religious readers but is worth mentioning. He also included a handwritten complaint sent to his district superintendent, but I would have appreciated it if he

shared a transcribed copy, as I found it hard to decipher what was written. This letter has a very important role in the author's memoir, and I feel like I lost important information. My only explanation for not doing this is that the author did not want the reader to understand it, and wanted to control the narrative, and the content. I also found the book overly repetitive, with the author saying, again and again, the same things and facts.

I believe in hearing both sides of the story, and that we need evidence to determine the truth as best as we can. Unfortunately, this book does not allow the reader to do that, as we only get his side of the story, and as unjust as the trial was for the Reverend, it would be unjust to assume that everything the complaint said was a lie. While I do not believe everything she said was true, I cannot say it was all a lie or exaggerated. The only thing I can do is follow the author's message and not judge either party involved in this story.

Overall, I rate this book 3 out of 4 stars. I had trouble with this rating. While I cannot rate the book based on my perception of the author's character, I do have to consider if this book would have been nicer if I did not dislike the author. The truth is my rating would not have changed. The book is overly repetitive, and the complaint letter should have been transcribed, but it is also honest and real. It has been professionally edited, as I only found one minor error.

I recommend *Stolen Grace: A Memoir: How God Rescued Me from the Jaws and Claws of the United Methodist Church* to those who enjoy memoirs, activists, and attorneys. The book contains a graphic description of the process, and they can judge how just or unjust it truly was. I also think religious readers will appreciate the Bible quotes.

# Shaneshia Sammerson

30 Nov 2022, 11:55

*5 out of 5 stars*

Book Cover

Have you ever been ridiculed and wrongfully accused by your church? This is a woefully common issue that many parishioners have experienced, but to hear about it happening to a pastor was heartbreaking. In *Stolen Grace* by Rev Errol E. Leslie, the author speaks about how the Methodist Church Board members stripped away everything that he worked his whole life to establish. He grew up in Jamaica and, from a young age, felt a calling to serve the church. Most children run away from Sunday school and do not look forward to it, but not Rev Leslie; he was always enthusiastic and ready for church.

He later moved to the States and began his ministry. He married and had two daughters, who also helped with ministries in the church. In a moment of weakness, Rev Leslie made a mistake that cost him his livelihood, his home, and all his privacy. He was not given a fair chance by the board to plead his case, and the person who lodged the complaint against him scandalized his name. The complainant told further lies, and the board just accepted whatever unethical behaviour was levelled against him without any investigation. Not only did the Rev's life get turned upside down, but that of his family and many others in his church did as well. Will he be given justice, or did he make such a mess of his life that he cannot be acquitted?

There were many divine qualities in this book. The Reverend's faith through all the pain and suffering he endured was remarkable. Why those pastors chose to believe the complainant over their own brother in Christ is something I cannot fathom. By all means, the Rev made a mistake, but to discredit anything he had to say was inhumane and unjustifiable. Gratefully, he had people who supported him and fought for his cause.

His wife and children were also there for him, which was exceptional, seeing that most wives in that type of situation would likely have asked for a divorce. She sounds like a devoted and understanding person. Her character is something that women today can learn from. Many Christians claim to be followers of Christ, but when faced with a dilemma, the first thing they do is separate themselves from the issue. When someone makes a mistake, this is the time when they need guidance to get back on the right path.

The only negative aspect I found was that it was a bit lengthy. It was, however, a pleasure reading about how Rev Leslie fought against the church system to clear his name. I expected the treatment he underwent from a regular judicial system, not from the church. The church is somewhere you're supposed to get comfort and counsel. Alternatively, it was filled with scandal and grievance. If you are a fan of Christian memoirs, then I recommend this book to you. It has many Bible verses that the author used that a reader in a similar position can use to help them get through the situation. It is deserving of a rating of five out of five stars. Having found no errors, it shows that it was exceptionally well edited.