

MOVIE TREATMENT – THE FAITHFUL ONE

TITLE: The Faithful One

(Adapted from the book by the same title, published by Morgan James Publishing Feb. 2017 by author Michele Chynoweth)

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LOGLINE

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away... Seth Jacobs has it all – health, wealth, a beautiful wife and three children, a great career and mansion in Greater Boston – and in a series of misfortunes beyond his control, loses it. His friends, who suggest God has a reason for inflicting so much loss and pain upon him, challenge Seth’s faith. Suffering, he asks God, as we all do, “Why is this happening to me?” and with the help of a social worker, receives an unexpected answer...and finds redemption. A modern-day story based on the Bible’s Book of Job, ***The Faithful One*** inspires us all to have a little faith no matter what.

GENRE/AUDIENCE:

Universal with a faith-based focus and timeless in its message - a contemporary inspirational yet edgy drama/suspense/romance

REVIEWS and CREDITS:

Wind Dancer Films (based on Readers Favorite International Book Award – Silver Medal, 2014):

The Faithful One was one of ten finalists that won the Readers Favorite International Book Awards in 2014 to be selected by Wind Dancer Films in Hollywood for production consideration. (Signed Release but not optioned)

"...an exploration of what a contemporary Job might look like, Chynoweth's tale should more than satisfy." - **KIRKUS REVIEWS**

"Understanding faith can be perplexing for some of us but the story Michele tells in this profound book is worth reading by all of us. She lets us know that faith is not only a mystery, it is a progression of our lives and a product of God Almighty for us to live by day after day." - **Dr. Thelma Wells, (aka "Mama T" of Women of Faith Conferences) TV HOST**, Founder of A Woman of God Ministries and Generation Love-Divine Explosion, Speaker, Author

SYNOPSIS

Seth Jacobs, healthy, wealthy and in the prime of his life, is in his Greater Boston mansion getting ready to be picked up by his limousine driver to head to one of his many nationally renowned restaurants at the Boston Harbor for an important dinner reception honoring U.S. Senator and Presidential candidate Robert Caine. Seth's limo driver gets stuck in traffic, however, so he decides to take the subway instead. But the train unexpectedly derails and comes to a screeching halt.

The subway is finally repaired Seth arrives late at his Boston restaurant, shocked to see it is in chaos; dinner is over and people are very ill and vomiting. Seth finds his maître d', Henri, a squat French man who explains he believes the caviar must have caused food poisoning among the patrons. Seth also discovers that Senator Caine became gravely ill and later that night he hears on television that Caine has died. The police arrive at the restaurant to investigate, and after their interrogation, escort Seth home.

Seth is met with more police and TV crews surrounding his home. An officer informs him of more bad news: his two sons, Adam and Aaron, who were at a college fraternity party, have been in a serious car crash. Seth meets his wife Maria and daughter Angelica at the hospital. The officer tells Seth that his younger son Aaron was driving and is in serious condition yet conscious and will be okay. However, they tell him that his oldest son, Adam, is in critical condition and is in surgery. Aaron confesses he had been drinking and using drugs at the party, became angry at Adam, grabbed the keys and insisted on driving with Adam riding in the passenger seat, and then how he lost control of the car, crashing it into a tree. The police arrest Aaron for drunken driving, possession of drugs and reckless driving, which they inform him could escalate to vehicular manslaughter if his brother does not survive.

After he recuperates, Aaron goes to court for arraignment and the judge, who has contempt for the Jacobs family and their wealth, rules that Aaron must be temporarily incarcerated for the weekend pending a bail review the following Monday. While in jail, Aaron uses his black belt karate skills to defend a fellow inmate from a gang of bullies who assault him, injuring the gang leader. Later that night, the warden comes to Aaron's cell and tells him the gang leader died while being treated for his injuries. Aaron then must go back before the same judge to be arraigned – this time on murder charges for which he will face a possible life sentence. Adam meanwhile remains in a coma.

Angelica, trying to cope with what has happened to her brothers and feeling neglected by her parents, turns to her boyfriend, Caleb, for comfort and has sex with him while out on a date. Several weeks later, while swimming in the Jacobs' backyard pool, Caleb, whose father is a US Ambassador from Syria, lets Angelica know that his family is moving back to their native country for his father to serve as a consul to his government. Angelica tells Caleb in turn that she's just discovered she's pregnant. Caleb asks her to come with him and tells her he'll marry her and she agrees. When Seth finds out his daughter is on a plane to Syria he breaks down, realizing he's lost all three of his children.

Seth's marriage and finances start to crumble. The police investigation has uncovered that tainted caviar was shipped to several of the restaurants Seth owns throughout the country, resulting in numerous cases of food poisoning, and a class action suit is filed against him by the victims. Seth is

forced to close down all of his restaurants and foreclose on his home. He meets with Michael Power's law partner who handles civil matters to discuss everything and realizes he must tell his wife the bad news that he's been trying to shield from her – that they will lose their home on top of everything else.

Faced with the loss of all three of his children, his livelihood and now the pending loss of his home, Seth sinks into a deep depression. Maria gets disgusted with him and out of her resentment and pent up frustration, has an affair with the gardener and then ends up leaving Seth.

Seth ends up feeling sick and finds out he has stage four stomach cancer. He's visited in the hospital, and then a nursing home where he is put temporarily, by three of his friends – his doctor, Ben Grason, his attorney, Michael Powers, his rabbi, Jonathan Mosha – who have various conversations with him, telling him he must have done something to bring on all of this misfortune. But Seth becomes angry with them and with God, questioning why all of these tragedies are befalling him. When his three friends try to talk to him and calm him down, Seth gets angrier and says he just wants to die and dares God to take his life.

Seth moves into Michael's home but gets sicker by the day as his cancer starts to spread. One day a letter from Angelica arrives; his daughter writes that Caleb and her in-laws have become domineering and won't let her return home to America for a visit with the baby on the way. Meanwhile Adam remains in his coma, Aaron sits in prison and Maria files for divorce.

Seth has more heated debates with his three friends who continue to try to reason with him: Morose and dying, Seth wanders off in a morphine induced state one snowy winter day to mail his children a copy of his will. But he gets lost in downtown Boston and ends up in a bad section of the city under a bridge with some homeless people and falls over unconscious to the ground.

Seth is rescued by a social worker named Lucille. At first he thinks she's an angel, then he starts to fall in love with her, but she advises their relationship must stay platonic. She admonishes the three friends, telling them to stick to doing their jobs instead of advising Seth. They do and Dr. Ben Grason ends up working with colleagues to find a cure for Seth's cancer and soon after, Adam comes out of his coma; Michael works on finding the real culprit behind the caviar tainting and Seth is awarded millions and works to free Aaron as well; and Rabbi Jonathan Mosha works on getting Angelica home.

Out of the blue, Maria telephones Seth and asks to come see him and their children. She seeks his forgiveness and that she wants to rebuild her relationship with him and their children. Seth faces the dilemma of being in love with Lucille and also still loving Maria. We see a scene twenty-five years later - everyone is celebrating a surprise 75th birthday party for Seth at his Boston restaurant – and we find out his life has come full circle as he's surrounded by his wife Maria, his friends and family. Seth ends up dancing with Maria and their great-grandson, thanking God for how good his life has become.

THE END

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