

In Praise of Love is Stronger than Death

“This is a most unconventional love story: two aging individuals in search of God meet and immediately recognize ‘the beloved’ in the other. Together they attain what they could not do alone. They discover the highest form of human love, a love that joins them as one soul and defies death. This is a spiritual book about human passion.”

—ISABEL ALLENDE, AUTHOR OF *THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS*

“A lucid, brave, and significant contribution to the two deepest questions being asked by all seekers now: What really happens after death and how can human relationships help us to achieve an initiation into divine human love? Another dimension which this book opens up is that of the real place of *eros* in Christian mysticism and the act of living mystical experience.”

—ANDREW HARVEY, AUTHOR OF *SON OF MAN*

“A profound and moving love story of original insight, written at the frontier of life and death.”

—DAVID WHITE, AUTHOR OF *THE HEART AROUSED*

“This is not an anti-monastic book. On the contrary It is ablaze with passion for the one essential task of the monk: total inner transformation. This love story deserves a place in every monastic library. It is an exploration of the monk’s pursuit at its daring best.”

—BROTHER DAVID STEINDL-RAST, OSB, AUTHOR OF
GRATEFULNESS: THE HEART OF PRAYER

“Sacred tradition is full of stories that illustrate the ongoing transcendent communion across the spiritual body of humanity, which in Christianity is called ‘the Communion of the Saints.’ There is a thin line between life and death, the living and the so-called ‘dead.’ We imagine it to be a chasm, but it is not. In the Islamic world such an intimate and deep communion existed between Jalaluddin Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi prior to and following Shams’ disappearance and death. Like Rumi and Shams, the communion between Rafe and Cynthia was a true ‘conversation of the heart’ (*sobbat*) that continues to this day. We are privileged to listen in.”

—LYNN C. BAUMAN, AUTHOR OF
THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS: WISDOM OF THE TWIN

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CYNTHIA BOURGEAULT