

## Testimonials

### Acclaim for *The Fog of Faith: Surviving My Impotent God*

Stucky was just 16 when her boyfriend, fearing she would leave him, raped her and threatened her life. Years later, after they were married and raising a child together, his abuse only became more severe and unrelenting. In her chilling and tumultuous memoir, Stucky recounts her attempts to play by the rules of the Mennonite Church that failed to protect her, and her embrace of feminist notions of faith and survival that finally led her to a new life.



--Ms. Magazine, Summer 2017, "Great Reads for Summer 2017"

Beautifully written, this powerful story unmasks the grim realities that many victims of domestic violence endure and celebrates the resilience required to triumph on the other side of fear and despair. *The Fog of Faith: Surviving My Impotent God* is a compelling memoir about a Mennonite farm teen in the contentious 1970s. Leona Stucky shares the love of family, raising a child by herself, poverty, and the struggle to escape an obsessive and dangerous husband. The voice of this woman's spirit and courage rings clearly as she faces the personal challenges of her faith—when the adversity in life tests the veracity of her beliefs against the reality of terror. This is an important, insightful book that I highly recommend.

– Michael Paymar, author of *Violent No More: Helping Men End Domestic Abuse*

Insightful and compelling, this riveting memoir offers a perspective about violence against women, shame, feminism, trauma, resilience, and relationships.

– JoAnne Tucker, Ph.D. Filmmaker, Producer, Healing Voices –  
Personal Stories

A practicing psychotherapist, Leona Stucky spends her days examining the lives of her clients. Now, in this stunning memoir, she turns the mirror inward to reveal her own personal history, from the violent boy she was forced to marry to the violent God she was forced to reject. Naked with fear, aflame with rage, at once heart-pounding and heart-breaking, this true tale climbs from the wheat fields of Kansas to the promised Heaven above—and down again. *The Fog of Faith: Surviving My Impotent God*, glows with the insightful power of necessary art.

– Robert Mayer, author of *The Origin of Sorrow*, *The Dreams of Ada*, *Superfolks*, and other books

*The Fog of Faith* by Dr. Leona Stucky is a brave, wrenching memoir that invites readers on a mythopoetic journey of personal transformation and redemption. This book is a quintessentially American story but also a cautionary tale about these turbulent times when violence and brutality often hide behind the mask of innocence. I applaud Dr. Stucky for venturing into dark and foggy places of our collective soul, and retrieving hard-won wisdom to help light our way.

– Stephen Jimenez, bestselling author of *The Book of Matt - Hidden Truths about the Murder of Matthew Shepard*

In the military I was fortunate to see the strength and inspiring competence of women in very demanding roles. And while this began stripping away the sexist views of my cultural inheritance, it did not provide insight into women's experience. Through Stucky's writing I feel the impotent rage of being deprived opportunities, even an identity, on the basis of sex. I recognize that the vigilance and undercurrent of fear known by soldiers walking hostile streets is also known by women walking in their own neighborhoods, living in their own homes.

– William LaRue, PhD, founder of Compassionate Relating

In *The Fog of Faith*, Leona Stucky tells a gripping story, excruciatingly personal and at the same time genuinely universal. Her bold confrontations with the God of her Mennonite upbringing and her struggle to find a God with whom she can relate will wrench your heart. This book is for those looking for a read that is gutsy and real, a story almost unbelievable, if we didn't know the lady who lived it and went on to help countless others sort through nightmares of their own.

– Rev. Linda Whittenberg, author of *Let Nothing Be Lost, Somewhere in Ireland, Tender Harvest, and Dying Can Wait*

A thought-provoking and engrossing story of domestic violence, *The Fog of Faith* tells about one woman's journey of struggle and despair, of hope lost and courage found. You will be shocked by the horrific details of the author's abusive first marriage and yet moved by the tenderness found in her Mennonite family of origin. You will cheer for Stucky, a real-life survivor, a woman of true grit and a tested faith.

– Rev. Lynne Hinton, author of *The Art of Arranging Flowers* and *Pie Town*.

From her farm-girl childhood, trusting in a loving God, to welfare mom, rape survivor, and eventually psychotherapist helping others deal with their dysfunctional beliefs, Leona Stucky's memoir traces one woman's spiritual coming of age. Honest and sometimes brutal in its representations of violence, *The Fog of Faith* exposes a patriarchal religious tradition that has too often subjugated women.

– Rev. Gary Kowalski, author of *The Souls of Animals, Science and the Search for God, Goodbye Friend: Healing Wisdom for Anyone Who Has Ever Lost a Pet*, and other books.

This should never have happened. Yet it happened, and now is a riveting true story of family, faith, and a youthful relationship gone terribly wrong. The author questions her faith and her own goodness, struggling for answers. In this memoir, she invites you to share her journey as she explores the meaning of sex, love, religion and self worth.

– Charlotte Berney, author of *Fundamentals of Hawaiian Mysticism* and former editor of *Antiques & Fine Art Magazine* and *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*