



After the trauma of a savage attack, a farm girl recovers physically, but her identity, faith, and relationships are shattered.

This is the true story, recommended by *MS Magazine*, of Leona Stucky's childhood on a Kansas farm, surrounded by a loving family and the simple tenets of her Mennonite community. Violence enters her world in the guise of a young man who seems normal to everyone else but whom Leona knows to be deranged in his obsession of her.

His unrelenting abuses take root, and Leona must deal with them utterly alone. Her pacifist father cannot avenge or protect her, nor can a callous justice system. Even God is impotent.

Leona is cast into a bewildering life of disgrace and poverty—with a baby, a violent husband, and battered faith. Through a series of page-turning events, she hacks through the bones of her naïveté to confront harsh realities and to probe the veracity of religious claims.

The Fog of Faith is a suspenseful and morally unflinching drama of shame and survival, as well as useable and unusual wisdom.

"Great Read" *Ms. Magazine*

Title: The Fog of Faith: Surviving My Impotent God
Author: Dr. Leona Stucky
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A minister and psychotherapist for more than thirty years, Dr. Leona Stucky became an author by turning the mirror inward to reveal her own personal story in a gripping and morally unflinching memoir, which has received acclaim from *MS Magazine*. In her professional life as well as her writings, Dr. Stucky plumbed the depths of faith and identity questions she could not answer, studying contrary schools of thought, and speaking what we seldom say out loud. In her life and writing she provokes new discussions with heartwrenching, vital stories.

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PRAISE

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*