

Shadow Of Priest's Abuse over Author's Grunt Sequel

Author Mike Ledingham's 'Always a Grunt' tackles the difficult topic of abuse in the Catholic Church.

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Video: [Mike Ledingham](#)

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Independent publishing company [BMS](#) Books is proud to release a new, even more challenging book by author Mike Ledingham.

In *Always a Grunt*, the newly published sequel to his popular first book, *Once a Grunt*, Mike tackles the difficult topic of abuse in the Catholic Church.

Like his first book, *Always a Grunt* is crowded with short stories laced with humour and sharp observations of human foibles and vanities.

However, two of the stories also delve deeper into sensitive areas of emotional turmoil as they recount the tragedy of an infant's death, and the sickening and unjust dilemmas a youngster faces after falling victim to paedophile priest.

"The feedback after the first book came out was really encouraging," says Mr Ledingham. "So I feel braver about branching out into some different areas with some of the new stories. It's still in the same style, though. People who enjoyed the first book won't be disappointed."

The stories are drawn from Mr Ledingham's hugely varied life experiences as a farm worker, soldier, small business operator, real estate agent and armed security guard, to name a few. But he's quick to point out that while his stories are based loosely on people and events he's witnessed, he's taken each episode further in "flights of fancy" and they aren't literally true.

"There are a couple that are closer to the truth than one would ever really want them to be," he says. "But I'll leave it to the reader to figure out which ones they are."

Although the story entitled *The Boy* regarding a priest's abuse of a boy and the impact it has on the family, could have been a book on its own, Mr Ledingham says it is a book for another time.

Always a Grunt is published by [BMS Books](#), whose Director, Michael R. Smith, believes Mr Ledingham is among a rare breed of natural-born storytellers.

"Given the raw emotions involved, *The Boy* was a difficult story for Mike to write but his growing depth as a writer is reflected in the outcome of this and the other stories in this new book.

"Mike's stories will have you crying tears of laughter one minute and weeping in sorrow the next. His subjects range from the bawdy comical to the tragically unjust, with plots and characters that are totally believable. He describes situations as they are, and he never preaches."

Always a Grunt is available directly from BMS Books, and at selected bookstores. If you can't see it on the shelf at your local bookshop, ask about it. ISBN: 978-0-473-29049-8.

See a profile a profile of Mike Ledingham, including video, at:
<http://www.bms.co.nz/#!authors-mike-ledingham/c1w2e>

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