

## An Onion Under Glass

Author Mark V. Aarsen

Memoir

### One Thin Skinned Cop in the Town of Glass

In 1980, Mark worked on the Wallaceburg Police Force. He's complicated. A fight with a Nun during childhood and competitive A-type siblings haunt him. As a young cop, a myriad of goofy characters tutor and mentor him. He encounters self-deprecating hilarious misadventures. Car crashes, frozen bodies, unintentional cannibalism, and street-smart kids cause Mark to wonder about his vocation.

Context:

It's the twelve-year story of how a naive young man was molded by adversity, friendship and hilarity to become a confident professional cop. Near death experiences on and off duty turn him into a reflective, compassionate soul with a sense of humor and humanity. He learns that life is not all about him.

Life is a complicated thing to understand and developing one's worldview takes time. We all fail repeatedly never seeming to sort it out or sort out ourselves. Impacted by high drama, Mark is a witness to the comedy, conflicts and tragedy of himself and others. His unique placement provides a broad perspective that he had never seen before. Laughter is good medicine for the soul. Even if you have to learn to laugh at yourself.

Mark has more than a decade of frontline experience as a police officer that includes arresting notorious national criminals and small-time crooks. Mark has been shot at and has hunted down armed criminals in dramatic stand offs. He has witnessed the toil and personal tragedy associated with a career in law enforcement. Eventually Mark meets the love of his life and the world makes sense for the first time.

He observed that his own humanity and sense of humor could be his greatest defense mechanism. Later in life, Mark would become an ordained minister, serving for 13 years. For 5 years, Mark wrote a five-hundred-word weekly column for Quebecor that frequently went national. After 13 years of writing sermons, he retired from the ministry and now has time to write his stories. They are unbelievably funny, poignant and profound just like Mark. Best of all, they are true!

Mark realizes he is living in a complex, ever-changing, world where personal values, ethics and friendships weigh in the balance. He needs an anchor and eventually finds faith in God that saves his marriage and sets a new course. Lady justice keeps her blindfold on in the telling of this book. It just might be that she cannot bear to see how things turn out.