



## The Good Son: A Novel

By Michael Gruber

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**The Good Son: A Novel** By Michael Gruber

***New York Times* bestselling author Michael Gruber, a member of "the elite ranks of those who can both chill the blood and challenge the mind" (*The Denver Post*), delivers a taut, multilayered, riveting novel of suspense**

Somewhere in Pakistan, Sonia Laghari and eight fellow members of a symposium on peace are being held captive by armed terrorists. Sonia, a deeply religious woman as well as a Jungian psychologist, has become the de facto leader of the kidnapped group. While her son Theo, an ex-Delta soldier, uses his military connections to find and free the victims, Sonia tries to keep them all alive by working her way into the kidnappers' psyches and interpreting their dreams. With her knowledge of their language, her familiarity with their religion, and her Jungian training, Sonia confounds her captors with her insights and beliefs. Meanwhile, when the kidnappers decide to kill their captives, one by one, in retaliation for perceived crimes against their country, Theo races against the clock to try and save their lives.

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## **The Good Son: A Novel** By Michael Gruber Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Bestseller Gruber (*Forgery of Venus*) explores America's political involvement in South Asia and the bloody religious and ethnic fanaticism associated with the region in his superb seventh novel. Sonia Laghari, a Pakistani-American writer and psychologist, sets up a conference on peace in Kashmir, the most terrorist-infested place on earth, only to have her and her small group of pacifists abducted and held captive by terrorists, who may or may not be manufacturing nuclear weapons. All but doomed to a public beheading, Sonia uses her familiarity with Islamic doctrine as well as her knowledge of Jungian psychology in an attempt to enlighten her deeply conflicted captors. Though the numerous bombshells at the end may strain credulity, the brilliant character development and labyrinthine plot line, not to mention the absorbing history of modern jihadism and the U.S. war on terrorism, make this a provocative thriller that readers won't soon forget. (May)

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Gruber's last two novels were about a forged Velázquez painting and an undiscovered Shakespeare play. Readers considering this one may wonder how well an author of art-historical thrillers will handle collisions between East and West, faith and unbelief, and Islam and Christianity. Those who have read it will ask a different question: Is there anything Gruber can't write about? In this richly layered tale, Sonia Laghari's attempt to convene a conference in Pakistan called "Conflict Resolution on the Subcontinent: A Therapeutic Approach" goes awry when the conferees are abducted by jihadis and told that one of them will be beheaded after each fresh infidel outrage. In the U.S., Sonia's commando son, Theo, instigates a plot to bring about a military-backed rescue. But Sonia, with her wiles and her understanding of her captors, just might rescue herself. That's the simple outline, but one of many pleasures in *The Good Son* is the way Gruber confounds simple explanations. Sonia, for example, is a Catholic Pole who converted to Islam before writing books that scandalized the Islamic world. She practices both religions without compunction and is a Jungian psychologist, to boot. And, before he became a shooter for the U.S. Intelligence Support Detachment, Theo was a mujahedeen hero in Afghanistan. (Trust us, it works.) The pace here isn't as rapid as usual, and much of the story is told in flashback or as discourse. But there are twists and tension aplenty—ideas, too. If only governments were half as interested in the psychology of violence, maybe war itself might become a work of fiction. --Keir Graff

Review

"This is a thriller, but also a novel of the mind--I learned more about the radical mindset in these 320 pages than in all the political punditry I've read or watched in the last five years. Highly recommended." ?*Stephen King*

"... The brilliant character development and the labyrinthine plot line, not to mention the absorbing history of modern jihadism and the U.S. war on terrorism, make this a provocative thriller that readers won't soon forget." ?*PW (Starred)*

"Is there anything Gruber can't write about? In this richly layered tale,... there are twists and tension aplenty--ideas, too. If only governments were half as interested in the psychology of violence, maybe war itself might become a work of fiction." ?*Booklist (Starred)*

“Gruber... weaves threads together masterfully while successfully exploring themes of family, duty, loyalty, cultural identity and more, without ever slowing the momentum. Smart, tense and vastly entertaining.”

?Kirkus

“*The Good Son*, by Michael Gruber, is one of those few and far between complex, intelligent, and insightful thrillers. The main character, Theo Bailey, is a Special Operations soldier who decides to take a more-or-less unauthorized leave from the Army to locate his mother, Jungian psychotherapist Sonia Bailey Laghari, who's disappeared near Kashmir. Sonia, who'd become a practicing Muslim when she married a Pakistani, was in South Asia to convene a symposium on "Conflict Resolution on the Subcontinent: A Therapeutic Approach" with a group of fellow pacifists. Ironically--given the title of the symposium--she and her fellow participants, who include an American billionaire, a Jesuit priest, and a Quaker couple, are kidnapped by terrorists, who may or may not have nuclear weapons at their disposal. Unless Theo can figure out what's going on and how to foil the terrorists' plans, his mother is doomed. At worst, the terrorists will use the nuclear devices; at best, Sonia and the rest will die by beheading. Because you're immediately sucked into the intricate and page-turning plot, this is a good novel for a long plane flight; but readers who are looking for a thriller with a strong philosophical subtext--the sort of novel that makes you think about families, loyalty, religion, and politics--will find just what they're looking for in Gruber's finest novel to date.” ?Nancy Pearl, *Booklust*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lori Parker:**

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#### **Brian Wallace:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This *The Good Son: A Novel* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **John Kirk:**

This *The Good Son: A Novel* are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The main reason of this *The Good Son: A Novel* can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple reading food but feed an individual with information that might be will

shock your previous knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed people. Beside that this The Good Son: A Novel forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that could it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

**Michael Nunn:**

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