



# The Thorny Grace of It: And Other Essays for Imperfect Catholics

*Brian Doyle*

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Best-selling and award-winning essayist Brian Doyle knows that the heartbeat of Catholicism is found not in papal decrees and pageantry, but in the parish halls, potluck dinners, and the believing community. In this spirited collection of more than 40 essays, Doyle employs his trademark wit, candor, and gusto for life and faith to reignite readers' excitement for Catholicism as he plumbs some of the stickier and trickier elements of the Catholic character.

From preparing for his first confession with a fake laundry list of sins to his young observations of President Kennedy's assassination, Doyle's passionate writing makes for a heartfelt, genuine, and often laugh-out-loud read. *The Thorny Grace of It* reaffirms that the Catholic faith—imperfect as it is—is wildly aflame in hearts and lives everywhere.

"It is a boon, a blessing, to have Brian Doyle's vagabond essays now rubbing elbows in a single, handy, and altogether delightful volume."

- Kenneth L. Woodward, author of *The Book of Miracles*

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