



What readers are saying about *Furtive Activity* by Michael Ignatius:

Talk about a roller coaster ride! This book starts with a bang and doesn't let up, even to the last sentence. The highs and lows, as well as the twists and turns the plot takes, are breathtaking. There are calms, but far greater are the storms that make it difficult to put this book down. There's no telling what will happen next or how divine providence will play a role in the exploits of Mickey Rybak, a clandestine CIA operative who is constantly pulled in different directions by his double life. His drinking problem only adds to the mess. Michael Ignatius has created a unique literary experience, using tight chapters to sustain momentum and leaving the reader wondering what will happen next, with plenty of the protagonist's character traits that easily relate to oneself. —Julie K.

This new novel by Michael Ignatius is a fine addition to his first work, *Near-Life Experienced*, as the main character, Mickey Rybak's life is put under a microscope. The struggle to maintain his secret double life is palpable as numerous tests of his psychological stability are put into play with dire circumstances in the balance. While *Near-Life Experienced* provides a broad backdrop of Mickey Rybak's life, *Furtive Activity* follows his every move over three weeks in vivid detail, conveying a true appreciation of the conflicts he faces with his family apart from his secret life as a CIA analyst. The supporting characters, easy to relate to, help balance out the lonely existence Mickey lives as he seeks serenity in all his activities, often providing him with the stamina he needs to carry on. While the intricacies of relationships on multiple levels are explored, it is Mickey's relationship with himself, something we all experience, that comes shining through. —Kurt C.

A welcome addition to the first novel in this apparent series, *Furtive Activity* brings back the psychological turbulence that was first felt in *Near-Life Experienced* in a major way. This time, the reader is provided with a razor-focused treatise on the life events of the main character, Mickey Rybak, as he attempts to navigate his way through his double life as a school principal and his secret career as a CIA analyst, facing the toils and tribulations that each of his lived experiences brings. His struggle is ultimately spiritual as the concrete world offers little to console him; instead, it only brings more trouble to contend with. Some supporting characters take center stage as well. Margaret Janangelino, Mickey's CIA handler, his wife Chrissy, and his daughter Dyana, with their extended roles, particularly and hopefully provide a launch point for subsequent novels.

—Rachel R.

If you are not familiar with the psychological thriller genre, here is the best way to tune in. *Furtive Activity* is a novel that not only lives up to expectations but shatters them as an impervious, action-packed example of what the best characteristics of this style of writing entail. The reader is privy to multiple levels of conflict

spurred on by the split life that Mickey Rybak must endure. Regardless of whether the CIA analyst, school principal, the Dean of Guild, or the consummate family man, each aspect of his life faces challenges that constantly threaten to expose him. His greatest battle? Alcoholism. A struggle that threatens to destroy his very being on every stage if he lets it. The central theme explores how to preserve a life filled with so many chances and hostilities—showing that it is as great a miracle as being created. —Tina G.

The first words of *Furtive Activity* are, “There’s no one there.” It is a theme that is carried throughout the novel. As Mickey Rybak faces every challenge, he must do it alone because of his secret life. The struggle that ensues faces action on multiple levels and tears at the very fabric of his existence as he fights to do what is right. But what is that exactly? Can it be finally found in his new role as Dean of Guild for the diocese where he works as a school principal? Or does that esteemed position only bring more conflict? His secret life as a CIA analyst knows no bounds, and his battle with alcohol threatens to destroy the family life he has built over many years. The question of “What will he do?” is answered on virtually every page of this compelling novel. —Joey P.

While Divine Providence has a hand in almost every conflict this novel presents, it is not always apparent, as the main character, Mickey Rybak, must face challenges that sometimes seem insurmountable. The amazing twists that settle the conflicts come out of nowhere at times, making *Furtive Activity* an unpredictable read. The untold advantage of this book is that it is totally relatable and piques an insatiable curiosity about what will happen next, which keeps the reader tuned in. It took me only two marathon sessions to finish, since I couldn’t put it down. The chapters are concise, not long and cumbersome like some books, causing me to repeatedly say to myself, “just one more chapter.” —Roger H.

One-line reviews:

The pace of Patterson meets the humanity of Grisham with a sprinkling of Clancy-esque attention to spy craft and detail, making Michael Ignatius’ book a unique and truly novel reading experience.

I admit that I had to look up the definition of *furtive* and discovered it is the perfect title.

Michael Ignatius sets numerous literary time bombs in *Furtive Activity* that eventually go off in later chapters.

Like a flashback, I’ve been where Mickey Rybak personifies, with all the secrets, struggles, and ravages of alcoholism.