

Robert Dugoni

(AUTHOR)

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell

(BOOK TITLE)

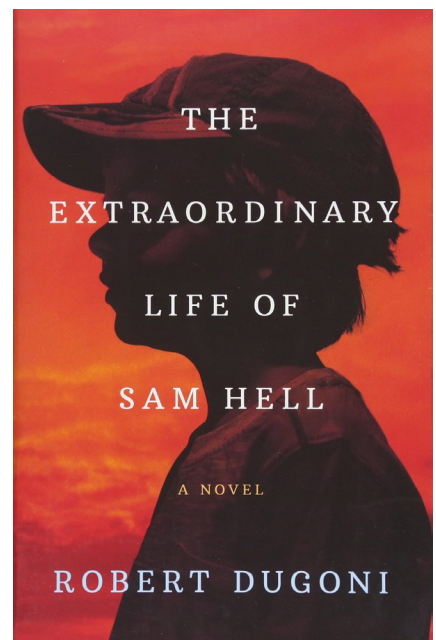
DATE	TIME
09 MAR 2021	8:00PM ET

HOLLY FURTICK

Book Club!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR - ROBERT DUGONI - GOES BY BOB

- His books are sold worldwide in more than twenty-five countries and have been translated into more than two dozen languages, including French, German, Italian, and Spanish.
- Written 20 books including:
 - Tracy Crosswhite Series
 - Sloane Series
 - Charles Jenkins Series
 - The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell

ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a coming-of age story about a boy born with ocular albinism and the obstacles that he must overcome his entire life because of his disabilities.

We learn of Sam's birth, his childhood at Catholic school, his relationship with his devout mother and the growth of his lifelong relationships with his two best friends. We also learn what it's like to be a child who is so obviously different from others and how that plays out throughout Sam's life. Those who scorn Sam and those who embrace him are heartbreaking and heartwarming.

SETTING:

- Hometown - Burlingame, California
- Our Lady of Mercy - private Catholic school
- Maxwell Pharmacy and Sam's office

THEMES

- Being told “It’s God’s will” - Sam’s desire to believe it, but doubting it and his faith.
- Bullying and discrimination
- Resilience
- Advocating for others (ex: Sam’s mom for him, Sam for Ernie)
- Forgiveness
- Loyalty, support and friendship
- Small moments make our lives extraordinary

MAIN CHARACTERS

- Sam Hill (also known as “Sam Hell”)
- Mickie (Michaela) Kennedy - a blunt friend who constantly calls out Sam’s relationship flaws
- Ernie Cantwell - only African-American at catholic school, life-long friends with Sam
- Maddy (Madeline) - Sam’s mother, strong Catholic mom
- Max (Maxwell) - Sam’s father
- David Bateman- the bully
- Sister Beatrice Beaver - principal of Our Lady of Mercy’s School

MEMORABLE SCENES

- Being born and father saying “What in Sam Hell?!” when he saw Sam’s eyes - ended up naming him that
- Getting into Our Lady Of Mercy (mom called the news)
- Befriending Ernie on the playground and fighting David Bateman
- David Bateman beating up Sam and getting kicked out of school (the pastor stuck up for Sam)
- Sam not getting valedictorian
- Dad’s stroke - Instead of going to college, Sam sacrifices his dreams and takes over his father’s pharmacy
- Treating David Bateman’s daughter (Bateman is now an abusive father and husband)
- David murdering his ex-wife and killing himself before the trial
- Traveling the world to volunteer as an eye doctor for poor children and meeting Fernando (removing his brown contacts)
- Visit to Holy City
- Sam forgives himself
- Reuniting with Sister Beatrice on her deathbed - she apologized and he forgave her

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Who was your favorite character besides Sam?
- What was your favorite scene in the story?
- Who do you relate to most in the story?
- Did you like how everything was wrapped up in the book? This book gives closure!

QUOTES

- “There comes a day in every man’s life when he stops looking forward and starts looking back.”
- “We live for the quiet, intimate moments that mark not our calendars, but our hearts: The day we marry. The days our children are born. Their first step. Their first word. Their first day of school. And when our children grow, we remember those moments with a touch of melancholy: the day they get their driver’s license, the day we drive them to college, the day they marry, and the day they have their children. And the cycle begins anew. We realize it is in those quiet moments that each of us has the ability to make our lives extraordinary.”
- “Our skin, our hair, and our eyes are simply the shell that surrounds our soul, and our soul is who we are. What counts is on the inside.”
- “Life is about heart. Yours is as big as any kid’s I’ve ever coached. Don’t you ever forget that.” - basketball coach after Samuel decides to join the newspaper team
- “Life is either a collision of random events, like billiard balls during a break careening off and into one another, or if you are so inclined to believe, our predetermined fate—what my mother took such great comfort in calling God’s will.”
- “Discrimination is difficult, because in its worst form, it is not overt. It is subtle.”