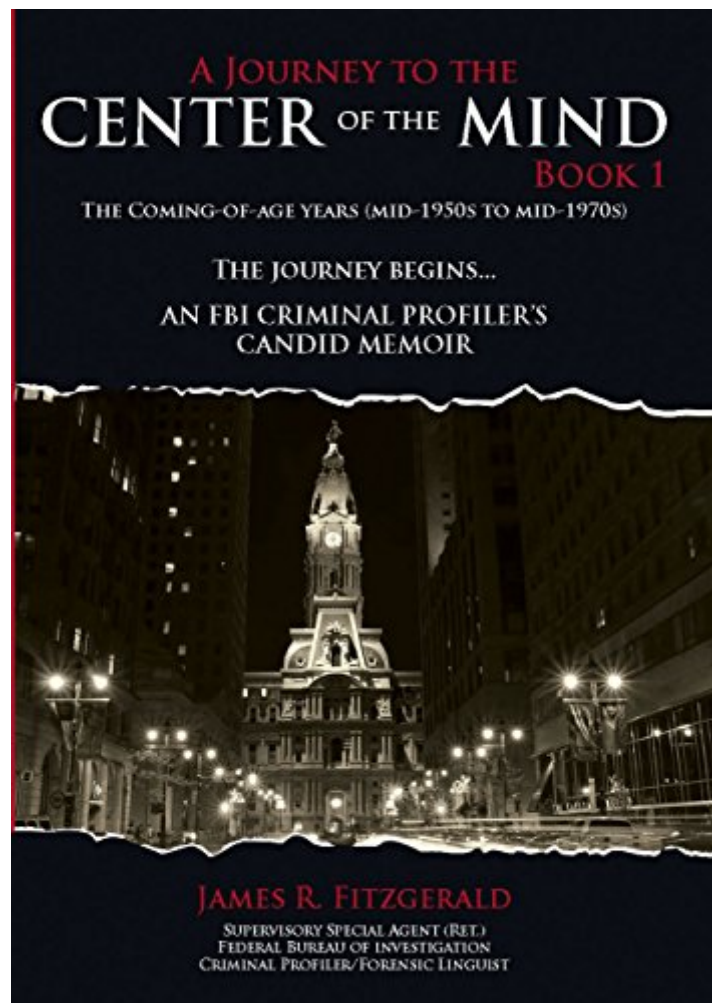




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A Journey To The Center Of The Mind: Book 1



Synopsis

Jim Fitzgerald recounts his experiences during the 1960s and 1970s in this sometimes funny, sometimes tragic, but always moving portrait of an FBI profiler as a young man. From his first-ever successful investigation at six years old, face-offs with childhood bullies, and encounters with naked-ish neighborhood interlopers; to high school and college antics, lifeguard summers, friends, including a future convicted killer – a “friend”; from early admiration for and later run-ins with law enforcement to his stint as store detective and ultimately his graduation from the Police Academy, Fitzgerald shares the good, the bad, and the not-so-pretty of his early life’s journey.

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Customer Reviews

Great product. Fast delivery. Waiting for book I I to come out. Thanks.

James Fitzgerald’s A Journey to the Center of the Mind was a real disappointment. I heard him interviewed on Diane Rehm or Terry Gross. Reading more about the life of a forensic linguist

sounded really interesting. *If* they mentioned it on the program, and *if* the website mentioned it, I totally missed that this is volume one in a 3-volume memoir, and the forensic linguist portion isn't discussed until volume 3. Beyond that, the book is not well written. Fitzgerald has interesting stories to tell, so with a good editor the book could be really good (and an editor that trims it down to a single volume). But unfortunately the book did not have a good editor - if any editor at all. Fitzgerald has a tendency to spend 3-4 paragraphs explaining something that should take a single paragraph, at most. There are some grammatical errors and incorrect words used. And he frequently set up an interesting story, then cut it off saying that it would be explained in volume 2 or 3 - this got increasingly frustrating as I read on. For a while I thought I might skip volume 2 and read volume 3 to get the forensic linguist portion I was originally after. But by the end of volume 1 I was too fed up with the poor writing - I will not read more of Fitzgerald's writing. There are better authors to spend my time on.

I approached this book with some trepidation as my reading habits usually tend towards historically based fiction where I could enjoy some suspense and character development while still learning something. That's exactly what I got with this memoir, concerning a child coming of age to a young man. Fitzgerald has the ability to, conversationally, present the memorable occurrences in his life in a manner that forces you to keep the pages turning. He does this with a mixture of memories that I fondly recall from my own childhood to areas where I know very little such as law enforcement. This is all done with the detail of an historian. Apparently this is the first of three parts. I look forward to the next one as my interest has been aroused.

I met Jim at a forensic linguistics course he teaches at Hofstra University, and I bought a copy of this book for him to sign for my daughter who is a fan of the TV show Criminal Minds, which he provided technical advice for. I decided to read it myself on Kindle, and I'm glad I did. It was an interesting, easy read. I'm looking forward to parts II and III if he does write them.

I feel like this is false advertisement. I bought this book thinking I would read stories about criminal profiling and the famous cases the author worked on with the FBI. That is not what this book is about. It's all about his hold hood and growing up. You don't see in ordering it that this is Book 1 of 3. You don't get into any part of the profiling and other things that would draw most readers to order this book. I am really disappointed that it is not made clear and I do not plan on ordering any other books by the author because I feel like I was misled.

I thought Jim's initial book, Journey to the Center of the Mind, Book 1, gave an interesting insight into what it was like growing up in a tight knit community in Northeast Philadelphia, and how his adventures drew him toward his future profession in local law enforcement and the FBI. His contact, and I use that term contact loosely, with the FBI while a student at Penn State is fascinating. It's like a scene out of a "Scared Straight" scenario. He is truly preparing his reading audience to meet some real characters in his second book, as he promises an inside glimpse of the local guy, later turned FBI Profiler, sharing his life experiences inside a police department.

Mr. Fitzgerald can certainly spin a yarn. This is a book of early life memoirs of Special Agent James R. Fitzgerald, FBI (ret) which influenced his developing intellect and effectuated his subsequent career as a successful law enforcement official. With detailed recollections of certain positive and even negative experiences in his youth, the reader takes a ride along with the author down memory lane with flashes of our own youth appearing in our minds, and brings smiles to our faces with his clever wit. And finally, an author who gives credit to his parents, family and friends for his successes...very touching!!The book is a flowing read, fun, informative and hard to put down. I am looking forward to Book II and Book III as I imagine the stories will grow in magnitude and significance.

Fitzgerald's JOURNEY is both heartfelt and fascinating! He manages to beautifully weave minute details into his story that make it touching and real. I loved the cute childhood stories just as much as the hard-hitting cop tales. There are few writers with the nuanced writing skill and ability that Fitzgerald has and he's only getting started... I can't wait for his next TWO books!!!

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