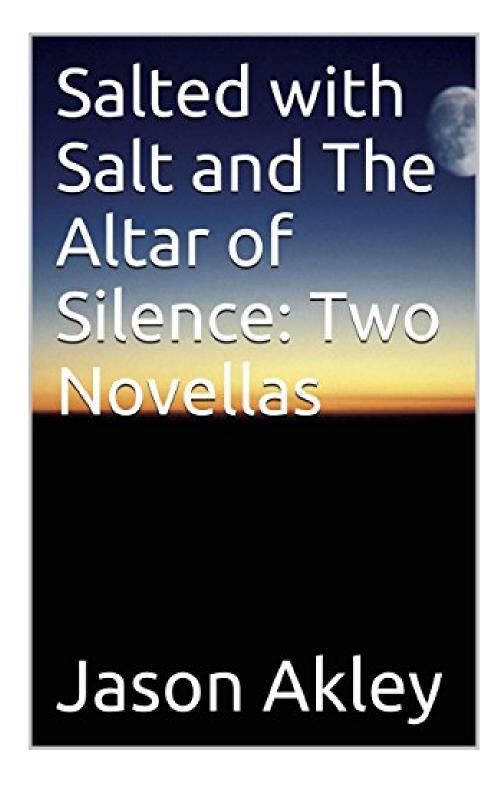


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#### About the Author

Jason Akley resides in Marion, IL. He enjoys spending time with his two daughters and hopes to continue engaging readers with thoughtful stories.

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Amid an American landscape come two poignant novellas of young men in search of relevance, love ... and a good round of golf.

Introducing Salted with Salt - Solomon Cross, unsure of what path to follow in life, is embarking on a road trip to visit two of his college friends. He is the detached observer. Yet as his journey unfolds, bits and pieces of himself are slowly revealed as he becomes both the story and the storyteller. "'You should tell it like it is. Anything else is false kindness, which leaves little room for improvement.' That was my father's opinion. He had an unshakable faith in God, but he thought that Man was inherently evil. As for me I knew all good things come from above, and I was standing still to receive. This hidden truth remained immutable in the shifting shadows. It gave me a chance to start looking around. Not with my mind's eye, but with something else in illusive apexes of clarity." And from The Altar of Silence, a story of lost youth and lessons that have yet to be learned - John, Jim and Ray are three friends who have known each other since rooming together in college. Jim is the surfer-the perennial teenager who goes from job to job and woman to woman; John is the solid married man with a wife, kids, and a mortgage; then there's Ray, the one with the terrible past that threatens to ruin the man he could become. "It's bad when you become rational about your vices. And for every intense moment in your life there's payback with interest". I sat in a cemetery once after taking some acid. All I sensed was the silence and the dark. Because there were no spirits there. Just my own, alone. I realized how silly speech was because it never bridges misunderstandings and how senseless it was in the unsaid."

Check out the author's blog: http://jasonakley.wordpress.com/

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

`Men just aren't in touch with their emotions, or if they are at times, they are too blunt about them.'

By Grady Harp

Jason Akley. We know too little about him. He is the son of a colonel in the United States Air Force, and has traveled extensively across America and Europe following his father's military assignments. He currently resides in Illinois, enjoying the presence of his two daughters. He started writing stories at the age of eight, and has had his poetry published in two books. He is the author of children's books (`Sweet Pea and the

Bumble Bee' and `The Candlestick') the hefty tome `Lazarus', the experimental book `Rick's Place', and `The Psalmist'. Akley has a BS degree from Tulane University in physics and mathematical economics. But to discover what the man is truly about it is necessary to read his books. This reviewer has now read his entire output and his ability to connect with the reader is similar to the gift that imbues Bukowski's writings, the poetic balance of such poets as John Berryman, Allen Ginsberg, and Hart Crane, and the imagination and flights of fantasy that circle reality like few others writing today.

SALTED WITH SALT: Writer Solomon Cross doesn't quite fit in - strange shoes to fit strange feet. Odd relationships with people that cross his life path - and in trying to find some significance to it all he piles his necessities into his car hand heads across country to meet up with college friends. The story is his Sol's journey - and as the author has summarized, `it is a universal voyage into the tragedy and comedy of human nature; a sentimental journey that celebrates life in all its nuances for everyone to enjoy. It is an examination of Sol's imperfections--sometimes ugly, but at the same time beautiful, adding spice to life and sculpting his humanity.' On his journey he explores the creative process, aware of his flaws and fallibility, writing sic stories that reference to the Seven Deadly Sins only to discover that what he has written are mirror reflections of his own flaws. It is the conversational style Sol has with people he visits interspersed with his stories that makes reading this little novella such a pleasure.

THE ALTAR OF SILENCE concerns John, Jim and Ray, three friends since college rooming days whose tales share how life can inadvertently pass us by on our quest for adulthood. Jim is a surfer and perennial teenager who goes from job to job and woman to woman; John is the solid but boring married man with a wife, kids, and a mortgage; Ray has the terrible past that threatens to ruin the man he could become. a story of lost youth and lessons that have yet to be learned - John, Jim and Ray are three friends know each other as rooming together in college. Jim is the surfer-the perennial teenager who goes from job to job and woman to woman; John (the narrator) is the solid married man with a wife, kids, and a mortgage; then there's Ray, rather on the outside because of his association with the shooting of his brother, a fact that threatens to ruin the man he could become. Lost youth and the lesson of living as a purposeful adult that must be learned.

In these brief novellas Jason Akley is often at his best, as though confined space rations his attention to deal with simply gut level emotions without extraneously wanderings. Pungent, reader friendly, these stories aim right for the gut and score. Grady Harp, May 14

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is much better than the "Altar"natives! @badwordplay By Owen Robinson

I very much enjoyed Lazarus, by Jason Akley, but was a little shell shocked with how dense that book was. I saw that he has this collections of two novellas, so I thought that this would be both a good change in pace as far as reading difficulty and engagement, while at the same time getting more of this new author that I like. Hey, everybody needs an easy, lighter read every now and again, right?

Salted with Salt follows Solomon Cross (a man whose name couldn't have more of a religious tinge to it if he was named Jesus Bibleman), as he sets out to reunite with old college friends. But the trip quickly turns into one of self-discovery. It is a fantastic and sincere look at that journey that everyone will take in their head at one time or another. At least I hope we all will...

The Altar of Silence is a fairly similar premise, but with 3 friends learning that they each have some growing up to do, and some things to learn themselves. The relationships between the 3 friends were very interesting, and how they helped each other and themselves along the way was very cool. I enjoyed this story a little better than "Salt", actually.

You know, after going through my library, I'm glad that I didn't stop reading after reading Crossroads from Damascus. I didn't really enjoy that book all that much, but there was something about the author's style that intrigued me. That was enough for me to try Lazarus, and I was not disappointed, and now I just finished this book. I have to say that, while I don't enjoy everything Akley writes, I enjoy the way he writes it, and when the story engages with me in some way, then I'm sold

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Full of friendship.

By Jay Mittener

Jason Akley has put together two novellas into one e-book which I love! There are two titles here one I love the most just because it makes me think of margaritias "Salted with Salt" and "The Altar of Silence" because .. well, who doesn't value a good altar?

I read them in order because I'm a rule follower and I think that they are best read in order because The Altar was my favorite and it was at the end so it gives the entire book a better feel to me. I did very much enjoy both books, but the second was my favorite.

Salted with Salt follows Soloman's journey to some deeper understanding about life by reuniting with college friends and having a trip to rediscover some youthful feelings and emotion. Sometimes we can learn the most about ourselves when we are surrounded by people we made early discoveries and memories with.

The Altar of Silence is the same premise of self discovery approached differently and I related to it more because it was more of in the moment discoveries and relied more heavily on friendship for self growth. I clicked more with this story and I loved the inter workings of the friendships.

Great job Jason Akley!

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