

Rooms: A Novel



Synopsis

On a rainy spring day in Seattle, young software tycoon Micah Taylor receives a cryptic, twenty-five-year-old letter from a great uncle he never knew. It claims a home awaits him on the Oregon coast that will turn his world inside out. Suspecting a prank, Micah arrives at Cannon Beach to discover a stunning brand new nine-thousand square foot house. And after meeting Sarah Sabin at a nearby ice cream shop, he has two reasons to visit the beach every weekend. When bizarre things start happening in the rooms of the home, Micah suspects they have some connection to his enigmatic new friend, Rick, the town mechanic. But Rick will only say the house is spiritual. This unnerves Micah because his faith slipped away like the tide years ago, and he wants to keep it that way. But as he slowly discovers, the home isn't just spiritual, it's a physical manifestation of his soul, which God uses to heal Micah's darkest wounds and lead him into an astonishing new destiny. "An extraordinary read. Part *The Screwtape Letters*, part *The Shack*."--Robert Liparulo, best-selling author of *Comes a Horseman* "A profound spiritual tale spun with imaginative flair. I'm looking forward to more from Jim Rubart."--James Scott Bell, best-selling author of *Try Fear* "Unforgettable. The kind of book that is talked about long after the last page has been turned. The universe of readers is richer because of this debut novel."--Alton Gansky, author of *Enoch* and *Certain Jeopardy* "Two words about *Rooms*:Â blown away. It's been a long time since I read anything this unique and truly creative, and even longer since a book held me in such rapt attention during the moments I was reading it--and long after."--Deborah Raney, author of the *Clayburn* novels "A wonderful book . . . Since I began reading it, I've been captivated. It isn't often that a book pulls me so deeply into the fictive dream that I dream about it at night."--Terri Blackstock, author of *Predator* and *Intervention* Winner, Best Inspirational Novel of 2010--RTÂ BOOKÂ REVIEWS Reviewers' Choice Awards

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Customer Reviews

Debut author and professional marketer Rubart has created a suspenseful tale in the vein of Ted Dekker's *House*, in which inexplicable happenings take over and direct a character's life.

Twenty-five-year-old Micah Taylor receives a mysterious letter from a great-uncle he never knew informing him of a home built for him by said uncle. His interest piqued, Micah, a wealthy software company owner, takes off for the Oregon coast to visit his newly acquired 9,000-square-foot house. What he finds is a shape-shifting, mind-boggling revisiting of his past that jeopardizes his future. With only a handful of letters as his guide, Micah tries to summon up the courage to face old wounds that somehow are connected to various rooms in the house itself. As soon as Taylor opens one door, in floods a sea of memories that he must choose to face or run from. Rubart's work clips along nicely, and his premise is compelling. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

James L. Rubart is a professional marketer whose Jr2 Marketing company clientele has included ABC, AT&T/Cingular, and Clear Channel Radio. He is also a professional speaker, writes recurring columns for Christian Fiction Online Magazine and Christian Women Online, and is on the board of the Northwest Christian Writers Association. Jim and his wife and their two teenage sons live just outside Seattle, Washington.

A religious (Christian, but not born-again) tome initially disguised as fantasy fiction. Well written, on the surface, that is, the author writes well, but overly proselyting for my taste, although I agree with what the author says about what Jesus tried to teach us about how to live, but I have great reservations about the God parts, angels coming down to earth and intervening in events, etc. So if you are into Christian (but not born-again - he slams the born-again types) novels, you will like it, I got bored, and put it down, read some other things, and picked it up again, and finished eventually.

Debut author's Dozen: His house. Designed for him. Unexpected and disturbing. Rooms changing overnight why? Rooms is a strange and wonderful book disturbing and intriguing at the

same time. Micah Taylor has been given a house back in Cannon Beach, a place that holds memories he still has nightmares about. His estranged Uncle Archie had the house built especially for Micah—why he has no idea. Still, Micah is curious enough to go investigate despite his father's advice to the contrary. Driving from Seattle to the beach, Micah doubts his decision and dawdles along the way until he slowly drives up a long driveway and sees the house. The house is spectacular—right on the beach. The architecture is superb and when Micah enters the house, he feels at home. As he walks from place to place within his house, he feels more and more at ease—the letter from Archie was right; the house could have been designed with Micah in mind. While exploring the town to see what has changed, Micah meets Rick, an auto mechanic with whom he has instant camaraderie. He feels Rick could become a great friend. Stopping into the town's ice cream parlor, he meets Sarah, but his instant feelings are not those of camaraderie, but that she could be the one. At home again, Micah continues to explore and wait, that room wasn't there before! How could he have missed a room? What will he find? Are there more yet undiscovered rooms? What keeps him here and keeps him coming back to Cannon Beach from his company in Seattle? Micah will find he has decisions to make which will he choose? The house that fits him like a glove, or the hustle-bustle and fame of his software company in Seattle. I loved Rooms. I loved the writing. I loved the descriptions. I fell in love with the characters. In many ways, I felt I was reliving my life and some of the decisions I have made along the way. James Rubart has the ability to make the reader a part of the story—silent observers, sometimes encouraging, sometimes saying, "Don't open that door!" You will enjoy the journey Micah makes. I was late to discover James Rubart. You will love and be challenged by his books. Both my husband and I rate Rooms: A Novel Five Stars! James Rubart is the author of seven novels, which have won the Christy, the INSPY, and the Romantic Times Book Reviews awards. He is also a professional speaker and consultant helping others perfect the business of speaking and writing and publishing. He and his wife live just outside Seattle, Washington. Find out more at JamesRubart.com.

I almost never give a 5 star review. Every book seems to be lacking something to make it the top. This book gets a rousing 5 star review. Someone wrote if Peretti wrote the shack it would be this book. I love Peretti and I really enjoyed the twists of the shack but this book is far better. Imagine, someone loves you enough to build you a mansion really, and knows you well enough that it suits you perfectly and has your memories in it, then imagine the person is long dead and you can't even remember him. He also seems to know your every thought and move. Hmm... what would you give

up for that? Mysterious doors appear? Mysterious strangers? Odd unexplainable happenings. Oh yes, this book causes you to think of Gods love and what he wants to give us, if we'll only allow Him to take charge. I truly had a hard time putting it down and stayed up late too many nights reading it. Will look for more from this author but he has set the bar pretty high for himself! By the way, I forgot to mention it isn't a horror book. Thriller yes, suspenseful yes, but not scary or horror.

This is the first novel that I have read by James Rubart, and it will not be the last. The story of Micah Taylor, a millionaire, who has conquered the world of business prowess and luxuries many people dream about, has his life turned upside down when he receives a letter from a great uncle with whom he has never had a relationship. However, though his uncle has given him a mansion, he is also leading Micah on a path to face his past--the good and the bad, so that Micah can reconnect with a God whose voice is now a distant part of Micah's life. This novel is about the battle for a soul and only if Micah Taylor relinquishes his worldly life, as well as faces a past that he would prefer to not remember, not only will he allow God to truly have his heart but Micah Taylor will also be free. I enjoyed this novel, but there's one lingering question? What happened to Micah's brother Mick? I don't recall him being mentioned much or whether he and Micah kept in touch.

The vast majority of Christian literature is either written by a woman, or geared towards women. Those that are written for men, at least those that aren't written by Ted Dekker, aren't stories that interest me. James Rubart not only touches on the supernatural, but engages your imagination while remaining true to the bible. The house in ROOMS is not some magic house like I've seen in other reviews. To me, the house in ROOMS is reflective of his own soul. The "voice" of the house was his own, albeit before he came to know the Lord. The house changes as his soul changes. So does the voice of the house. What happens to him and how he reacts is the lesson that this book teaches us. The bible tells us that the Lord is preparing a house for us in Heaven. Preparing is a present tense word. It changes by the day. What is the state of your soul? What will your house in Heaven look like? Read this book and gain a better understanding of the Spirit inside you while being entertained at the same time.

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