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Synopsis of *The Legend of Cosmo and the Archangel*
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JERUSALEM – *The Legend of Cosmo & the Archangel Synopsis*
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Post baby boom, post 60's, post rebound, post lots of growth, it not surprising that readers connect with *The Legend of Cosmo and the Archangel*. Who we are today, 40 years hence? Passions and choices yank the characters across a spectrum of experiences and emotions. From Viet Nam, and terrorism throughout the 70s and 80s, through Ireland, France, Asia, and the Middle East, Cosmo and Nick run from themselves and from each other.

After stealing the body of Nick's father, Jonas, from the hospital, five friends hold their own burial service in the hills around Jonas' homestead and then mourn, as only teenagers can do, by making their way to the quarry to swim. Cosmo, already in trouble with the local motorcycle gang, manages to pick a fight with the bikers when they all meet at the quarry. As the bikers proceed to demolish the hearse Cosmo has on loan from his father, Nick takes a dare to jump off the cliff into the quarry below, saving Cosmo from mutilation by the bikers.

The group of friends breaks when Cosmo leaves high school for the Army and a sure ticket to Viet Nam. The next time the friends meet is when Cosmo goes AWOL during a medical leave. They all end up at the Woodstock festival where they form their covenant of friendship. Cosmo, haunted by Viet Nam, can't face going back to the hospital. He leaves everything and heads south in a cheap car with little cash. Without discharge papers he can't get a job, can't do anything that requires formal identification. In order to eat, he joins the ranks of scab and migrant workers and drinks himself into an alcoholic stupor whenever he has money.

The other four members of the group, Frankie, Joey, Dave, and Nick finish high school Joey and Frankie leave for Harvard while Dave follows a budding football career. Nick is left behind, riddle with his father's debt and no college education. His visits to Harvard to see Frankie lead them both into a relationship doomed by pregnancy at a time when society expected them to marry. Instead a tragic accident

happens. Running from his mistakes with Frankie, Nick heads to the west coast and crews on sea-bound ships.

A few years later Joey's career takes a turn when, as part of his drug enforcement work, he stumbles upon Nick's trail. Joey discovers that Nick shot and killed the Ambassador to Cyprus and is running with the IRA. Joey needs someone expendable to run after Nick, someone without suspicion that Nick would let get close. Joey convinces Cosmo to run as a rogue agent after Nick. The story turns sinister as Cosmo chases Nick, one the pursuer, the other pursued.

During the chase both Cosmo and Nick are faced with horrible choices. Cosmo travels Europe in search of the terrorist, Nick. Cosmo manages to get free of drugs and alcohol until a close painter friend is brutally mugged in Paris. Cosmo then pulls off the fake of the decade as he becomes his dead friend in order to sell the paintings for the widow. In the process Cosmo once again succumbs to drugs and alcohol. Nick's trail grows cold and the stops. It takes a spur from Joey to get Cosmo moving once again. When he finally finds Nick, Cosmo is once again clean. But a shocking surprise in India drives Cosmo into a long spiritual search in the Himalayas where he tries to find something outside of himself to live for.

Nick finds himself identifying with the plight of people that are terrorists. He is so indoctrinated that he becomes a terrorist himself. When he almost kills someone, and is left by his handlers as a sitting duck waiting to be caught, he runs from the law, his actions, and his self. Only through the intervention of a great man, who brings Nick in from the street, does Nick begin his process of redemption. The storytelling alternates between the two narratives as they make their way across continents. It ends in Jerusalem, to where all roads lead.

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If you would like more information about Joseph Kaufman or to schedule an interview with the author, please call Shoshana Kleiman at 972-2-651-5795 or email at shoshana@frenchcreekpress.com. For more information about French Creek Press, please visit our website at <http://www.frenchcreekpress.com>.