



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A Questioning Nun’s Coming-of-age Memoir Explores Brokenness
and the Pull to be Part of Something Larger than Ourselves**

“Walsh debuts with an introspective chronicle of her rocky path through physical trauma and self-doubt to nunhood.... This leaves a mark.” —*Publishers Weekly*

CHICAGO, IL (March 5, 2024)—At the age of 25, a month into her novitiate, Julia Walsh fell from a cliff and became disfigured. While working toward healing, she felt pulled to religious community life, but also toward unresolved feelings regarding her own sexuality, identity, and injustice. Her new memoir, *For Love of the Broken Body: A Spiritual Memoir* (Monkfish Book Publishing, March 26, 2024) is a story of pain, questioning, recovery, and discovery. What does it mean to exist as a broken body? Why would a young woman dedicate herself to the Catholic Church—as a Franciscan Sister—while others are leaving churches in droves?

The number of women choosing to enter religious life across the U.S. is shrinking rapidly, so Walsh encounters a lot of curiosity about her choice. She writes honestly about feeling drawn to men and to sex, this age of self-discovery and hook-ups, and being physically broken and still very much attracted to the world.

For Love of the Broken Body: A Spiritual Memoir is the honest memoir of a first-time author that is not to be missed.

“Julia Walsh gives me hope for a future with religious women changing the world. She tells a story all her own, but I felt her doubts, questions, and passion each step of the way. Highly recommended.” —**Sister Helen Prejean**, author of *Dead Man Walking*

“*For Love of the Broken Body* is a beautiful, searching, searing book.” —**Liam Callanan**, novelist, author of *Paris by the Book*, winner of the Edna Ferber Prize

“A searing, riveting, surprising, challenging and ultimately inspiring work that asks some of the hardest questions a human being might face.” —**James Martin, SJ**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

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Julia Walsh is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and part of her congregation's formation team, serving women who are discerning their vocation. She co-founded The Fireplace, an intentional community and house of hospitality on Chicago's southside that offers spiritual support to seekers, artists, and activists. She has a MA in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union and is a spiritual director and secondary teacher. As a creative writer, educator, and retreat presenter she is passionate about exploring the intersection of creativity, spirituality, activism, and community life. Sister Julia's work can be found in publications such as *America*, *Living Faith Catholic Devotional*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Living City*, *The Christian Century*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *St. Anthony Messenger*. She hosts the Messy Jesus Business blog and podcast and is on Twitter and Instagram as @JuliaFSPA. A lover of the outdoors, she sometimes can be found studying wildflowers near Elgin, Iowa, her hometown.

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For Love of the Broken Body: A Spiritual Memoir

Monkfish Book Publishing

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