



## *An Essay on Sedecki's Dilemma*

by Clint Letterman

Writer for Medium and Author of The In-Between

I love reading, I love doing book reviews. It is an even greater joy to do a book review for a personal friend, especially a first-time author, who just wants to get his story out there. That being said, a viable book review is a critical book review, in my opinion. Mark knows this and appreciates my honest assessment.

Ray Sedecki is a likable (and relatable) main character. He is self-described as friendly, funny, very sarcastic, independent and lonely. Geiser not only uses these descriptors, but this is the Ray you get to know throughout the book. Character development is one of the hallmarks of a good book and Geiser does this exceptionally well.

What is this book about? A dilemma. Sedecki's personal dilemma of faith. At face value, there is nothing original about this focus. I would argue that all humans experience some degree of an existential dilemma. What sets this novel apart is how relatable it is. I imagine everyone: a skeptic, an agnostic, a deconstructionist, a fundamentalist can appreciate Ray's journey. Whether Geiser meant to write to the masses, he accomplished this task shrewdly.

Is this just Sedecki narrating his dilemma in his own mind? Thankfully, no. This story includes romance, heartbreak, death, family drama and a few literary curveballs that I never saw coming. I found myself rooting for Sedecki on a personal and eternal level.

The two exceptional aspects of the book are its apologetic focus and the integration of Sedecki's conscience. To be clear, Geiser's goal is not an apologetic defense of the Christian faith. This story is home-grown, literally many of the references are based in Geiser's hometown. But the subtle apologetic aroma will be intoxicating for those who wrestle with the legitimacy of the Christian worldview. Is it comprehensive? No. Does it interact with other philosophical or religious viewpoints? No. But does this book argue that Christianity can answer life's most difficult questions? Absolutely. Geiser accomplishes this coolly, without being preachy or obnoxious.

The other aspect is the literary treasure of Sedecki's conscience. This is where Geiser is at his best. Sedecki's conscience is funny, sarcastic and unashamedly corny. Yet it is also in Sedecki's conscience where the existential tension is most profound, as it is with every human. In other words, this work would be more vanilla without the integration of Geiser's novel literary technique.

My only criticism of Geiser is Sedecki's age. Ray is 27 years old, but he seems a lot older. Most readers will miss this, especially those readers who do not know the author personally. Does it affect the potency of the book? Not at all. Maybe Sedecki is an old soul. I certainly am.

Sedecki's Dilemma is a fun, engaging, heartwarming story. The reader will move through the pages quickly, since it will be hard to put it down. As I wrote in my endorsement, "Every author attempts to be original, but few attain it. Sedecki's Dilemma is one of those delights, a "hole-in-the wall" literary treasure." I stand by my words. Go out and get a copy today.



Mark Geiser, Author