

Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt: A Novel

By Anne Rice

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Having completed the two cycles of legend to which she has devoted her career so far, Anne Rice gives us now her most ambitious and courageous book, a novel about the early years of CHRIST THE LORD, based on the Gospels and on the most respected New Testament scholarship.

The book's power derives from the passion its author brings to the writing and the way in which she summons up the voice, the presence, the words of Jesus who tells the story.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Believer and nonbeliever alike are familiar with the story of Jesus Christ. But most tales tend to focus on his last days and eventual crucifixion. Rice explores Jesus' youth, and tells of his family's journey from Egypt to Judea and of the requisite strife they encounter along the way. The novel follows the young Jesus as he starts to learn about his divine heritage and experiments with his mysterious healing powers. Heine narrates in an earnest, youthful alto, and one might think this suitable considering that the story is a first-person account of the life of a seven-year-old Jesus; however, the story is actually told by an older Jesus, looking back on the events of his youth, so Heine's innocent and childlike performance is somewhat out of place. Though competent, Heine's reading lacks any spark or fire to it, making the overall result rather bland. Heine is also bound by the source material, which, while an honest and heartfelt attempt to explore the all-but-unknown youth of Jesus, fails to live up to its lofty ambitions.
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From School Library Journal
Adult/High School–In crisp, straightforward prose, Rice leaves the gothic behind and explores the mysteries beneath the childhood of Jesus. At age seven, the boy and his family leave Egypt to return to their home. They find themselves caught in a revolution after the death of the first King Herod, ruler of the portion of the Roman Empire that includes Israel. Although the historical and cultural details are authentic and well done, it is the character of Jesus that drives this novel. He feels like a typical seven-year-old, but he's also suddenly discovering abilities that no one else possesses. He brings clay birds to life, makes snow fall, and even resurrects a dead playmate. Stunned by these odd happenings, he turns to Joseph and Mary for answers. When they are not forthcoming, he's forced to hunt out clues through local legends, rumors, and a strange spirit that taunts him in his dreams. The story is told from Jesus's point of view, and the strength of the book weighs heavily on Rice's ability to make him believable both as a child and as the son of God; she does a winning job. The wisdom of all things religious fills Jesus completely, but he's naive about day-to-day events: he can't understand why a young girl he used to play with prefers at age 12 to learn about weaving and rearing children. This new direction for Rice is both bold and reverent, and is bound to please fans and newcomers alike.–*Matthew L. Moffett, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale*
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From Bookmarks Magazine
Drawing on the Gospels and New-Testament scholarship, Rice responds to the skeptics with *Christ the Lord*. Critics agree that Rice’s studious research into subjects as diverse as Jewish groups and daily life has produced visceral, historically convincing scenes, though she writes in a leaner style that *Vampire* readers may find unfamiliar. She generally succeeds in transforming Jesus, a first-person narrator, from an icon into a flesh-and-blood person. However, Jesus, whom Rice approaches with blind veneration, struck some critics as too innocent and simplistic. *Christ* may not appeal to readers with other religious beliefs; some scholars will debate her theology. It’s important to read the afterword, for there Rice discusses her return to the Catholic Church—and reveals her brave agenda.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bryant Kelly:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to endure than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you that Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt: A Novel book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Brianna Bell:

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