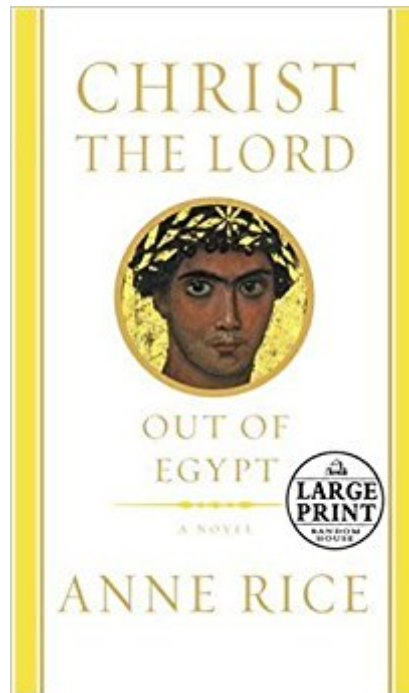




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Christ The Lord: Out Of Egypt (Random House Large Print)



Synopsis

Having completed the two cycles of legend to which she has devoted her career so far, Anne Rice gives us now her most thoughtful and powerful book, a novel about the childhood 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 the young Jesus who tells the story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rice departs from her usual subject matter to pen this curious portrait of a seven-year-old Jesus, who departs Egypt with his family to return home to Nazareth. Rice's painstaking historical research is obvious throughout, whether she's showing the differences among first-century Jewish groups (Pharisees, Essenes and Sadducees all play a part), imagining a Passover pilgrimage to Jerusalem or depicting the regular but violent rebellions by Jews chafing under Roman rule. The book succeeds in capturing Jesus' profound Jewishness, with some of the best scenes reflecting his Torah education and immersion in the oral traditions of the Hebrew Bible. As fiction, though, the book's first half is slow going. Since it is told from Jesus' perspective, the childlike language can be simplistic, though as readers persevere they will discover the riches of the sparse prose Rice adopts. The emotional heart of the story—Jesus' gradual discovery of the miraculous birth his parents have never discussed with him—picks up steam as well, as he begins to understand

why he can heal the sick and raise the dead. Rice provides a moving afterword, in which she describes her recent return to the Catholic faith and evaluates, often in an amusingly strident fashion, the state of biblical studies today. (Nov. 7) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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 Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is unlike any book I've ever read about Christ! Anne Rice's tale is both gripping, emotional and transformative!! You experience the life of a young Jesus in a very unique way and when she describes scenes that took place in the Bible, Anne's descriptive style makes you feel like you are right there experiencing the things that Christ saw and felt! I used this book to help my son better identify with and understand Christ - his life and the time in which he lived.

Enjoyed the idea of possible life of Jesus when a young boy. Clearly understand that this is fiction, but gave me a way to think about Him being fully human and fully God. That's a concept I am very comfortable with and have no need to fully understand but still it was interesting to have a writer and researcher and follower of Christ to share in a purely fiction work. I am now reading the second

book and will complete the trilogy when finished with book two. She is an amazing and thorough researcher so the context of the story has many interesting details.

For any other human being, this coming of age tale would seem typical, even ordinary. But somehow for Jesus, howsoever you may experience him-- superstar, superhero, rebel, gangster, carpenter, son of God, or prophet, his ordinary human struggles are experienced as extraordinary. Many accounts of him stress his divinity, his 'supernaturality'. Here we are faced with the realistic possibility of an uncertain, non-confident Jesus who is in moratorium, and is uncertain about the world and his place in it. This account engenders familiarity. His inadequacy, his quirkiness, his separateness and difficulty being understood by others is identifiable and even endearing. To his community he is a great promise of better things, yet he flounders at everything: his day to day work, even speaking to girls. He is Yeshua the sinless, a usage which took on so many tones, meanings and connotations--from derision to admiration and everything in between. This exposition into Christ's humanity reminds me of my own human struggles and makes me want to know him better. Again, thank you Mrs. Rice.

Like most here have said, the second-half of the book was clearly the most interesting. When news came to the village that John the Baptist had come out of the wilderness and was fulfilling the Prophecy, I actually began to shake, anticipating Yeshua's trip to the river. It's the kind of shake you get when you're a little too cold, but nothing I could do would stop the shaking! Finally, when he was baptised and began his journey into the wilderness, I calmed down. His conversations with Satan were phenomenal! What an imagination to build that from the scriptures! My favorite line from the entire book came at the onset of his journey into the desert: "Well, now I knew just what it meant to be the man who knew he was God." I had to stop reading for a while to recover from that line, then read it over and over again! I also enjoyed Him telling James: "I am weary of you, by brother... in my heart, I'm weary." The last page of the book is sheer genius and made my heart swell with Happiness!

This book gave you something to think about. As Christ followers we always hear about the birth of Christ and when he was a young man, then at the age of 33, but never things Christ had to experience as a child. We don't imagine what His life had to be like growing up, challenges He had to face at the time of Herod being king. We don't think about Christ needing to be protected from Himself and the people. Just remember that this is a fictional book so it is not always accurate to the

bible. But a great read!

In her second book in the Christ the Lord series, Rice has again skillfully created a historical novel of the life of Jesus that is engaging, historically connected, and true to the image of Jesus in the Gospels. Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana captured my imagination and fueled my devotion with its earthy depiction of an adult Jesus (referred to in the book by his Hebrew name "Yeshua" or "Yeshua bar Joesph"). Rice has continued with her masterful way of balancing the true humanity and true divinity of Jesus in The Road to Cana with vivid description. With Jesus as the narrator, Rice gives the reader another look into Jesus' inner life, his thoughts, his anxieties, and his longings. (WARNING: The following may contain plot spoilers. If you don't want me to ruin the plot then order the book here.) Rice has wisely chosen not to fill in too many gaps between Jesus in the temple at age 12 and his baptism at approximately age 30. The Road to Cana begins during the winter before Jesus' baptism. We see less of his interaction between his mother, his father, and Uncle Cleopas and more of his interaction with his older brother James. There is a reference to his brother James being the son of another woman and not Mary, the mother of Jesus. Also there is a reference to Jesus calling his cousins his "brothers and sisters." This classification is in harmony with the Catholic tradition that Mary remained a virgin and had no other children. Protestants may disagree, but this theological determination regarding Jesus' family in no way takes away from the power of the story. One of the triumphs of the book is Rice's ability to portray Jesus' romantic feelings in a pure, noble, and historically true way. Jesus' temptation in this regard is completely free of the trashy, 20th century, sex-obsessed descriptions of his romantic feelings as seen in other contemporary stories of Jesus. Jesus is enraptured with a young woman named Avigail. She is a fictional character, but she could have very well been in Jesus' life in first century Israel. I don't want to give away too much of the plot, but Avigail plays an important role in The Road to Cana. Jesus' love for her is very holy and very real. Rice does a wonderful job describing the pressure Jesus was under to take Avigail as his bride. The temptation was not unbridled lust, but the temptation to marry according to cultural standards. Jesus longs to make Avigail his bride, but he knows this is not his call. The interactions between Jesus and Avigail are wonderfully written. The first half of the book sets the historical and personal context of the life of Jesus leading up to the Gospel accounts of his baptism, his temptation, and the beginning of his miracle ministry, including the miracle at Cana. Rice describes Jesus' baptism and subsequent temptation in the wilderness with magical imagery and direct quotations from Scripture. She remains faithful to the gospel narrative and fills in the biblical text with wonderful color and texture. In the front of the book she has a quote from Karl

Rahner: The truth of faith can be preserved only by doing a theology of Jesus Christ, and by redoing it over and over again. Anne Rice has used her gifts as a writer to do just that, redoing a theology of Jesus Christ on the canvass of biblical and historical orthodoxy...a historical-fiction-kind-of-theology that has great benefit for those of us on the journey of knowing, loving, and following Jesus.

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