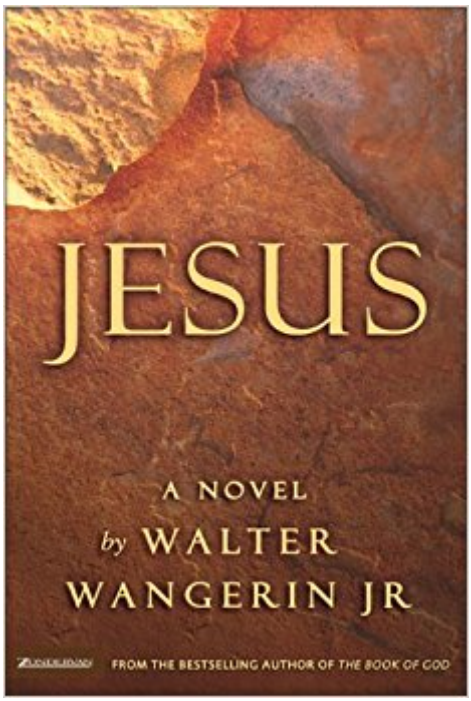
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Jesus



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Synopsis

This man: Consider this man who, by his power, his peace, his simple presence, and his fierce purity, quietly turned the whole world upside down. None other could evoke such joy at his astonishing deeds, such anger at his strange aloofness, such fear when he began to draw the attention of powerful enemies . . . and such heartbreak when the inevitable came to pass. Surrounded by a circle of close relationships---his mother and her extended family, men and women drawn irresistibly by the light of his personality, the authority of his words, the power of his deeds, and above all, by the depth of his love---this carpenter from Nazareth moved toward a singular destiny. A destiny he would both fear and embrace. A destiny that would mark forever the lives of those who followed him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Falling solidly within the genre of Wangerin's previous novels, this book often feels more like a Eugene PetersonÃ¢â ¬â œstyle paraphrase of the New Testament than an actual work of fiction. While Wangerin invents dialogue, events and characters that go beyond the biblical text, these inventions do little more than provide context for his retelling of the bulk of the four Gospel accounts. As always, Wangerin writes beautiful, descriptive prose, evoking the sights, sounds, smells, sensibilities and politics of the world in which Jesus lived. He nicely develops the character of Jesus' mother, but most of the other charactersÃ¢â ¬â •including Jesus himselfÃ¢â ¬â •are not adequately fleshed out, as Wangerin tends to use physical descriptions and one or two trademark mannerisms

in lieu of full characterization. Judas Iscariot is tall, thin, young and manic; Simon Peter is burly and gregarious; and Mary Magdalene is a strong but tiny wisp of a woman whom everyone refers to as a child. Wangerin innovates a bit by alternating between third- and first-person narration, sharing Jesus' mother's perspective in the third person and the gospel writer John's in the first. Readers looking for a well-written novel that rarely veers from an entirely orthodox depiction of Jesus will appreciate this effort. (Nov.) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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Walter Wangerin writes like he speaks. I heard him speak at a conference in the late 90ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s and thoroughly enjoyed his dramatic, poetic flare. He swept his audience into the biblical world with his rich, deep voice and lyrical prose. Breath-taking. Heart-stopping.But 400 pages of it was a little more than I had bargained for.I found myself tempted to skip over portions of the book because I knew that portion of the story, or I wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t interested in the character he was portraying at the moment. However, as I continued reading, I was captured by some outrageously wonderful description or seized with such emotion for Mary that I couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t see through my tears.This book was the first of WangerinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s work IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read from cover-to-cover. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve often read his fabulous Book of God to read a chronological retelling of a

portion of Scripture. No one can write a description in the gritty, unspeakable obvious like Walt Wangerin.He describes Martha, the sister of Mary and Lazarus: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Her great neck was so ringed with folds of flesh that they drove the lobes straight out below her ears.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• CanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t you see a chubby Martha bustling around a house?He describes Jesus, deep in thought: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦something was on his mind, some driving conviction which he seemed, by the fierce bunching of his jaw muscles, the muscles in his temple, to be chewing, chewing, never swallowing.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•But the most preciousÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •and soul-searchingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •descriptions were of Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve never before been so moved by the changes she endured as the mother of a miracle, and a boy, and the Messiah: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Mary doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t hate the holy mysteries; but they shut her out; and if they are capable of love, it is a love too noble and composed to care about white hairs or the flab above a womanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s elbow or the insufficiencies of her soul.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Perhaps this book affected me so deeply because, a little like Mary, I'm discovering the exquisite pain of changing relationships with my children. They're growing older, becoming less dependent on me...and I'm becoming less relevant in their everyday lives. They're now the experts on culture and the world in which we live. I've become "cute" and "precious." When did that happen? ;)Jesus: A Novel, was a good read for me during the Fall season of the year and this season of my life. Perhaps it can speak to others during their own changing seasons.

The author writes a novel, weaving a single Life Story from the Gospels along with an inspired imagination. This is truly the gift of The Holy Spirit. Read it and join Mary, Jesus and the beloved disciple on the glorious and awe-filled journey of Christ.

I absolutely loved this book. The writer makes the characters come alive. We all have read many stories about the life of Jesus and of course its an eternal story. The writer however has captured the humanity of Mary, Joseph the apostles and Jesus. He takes you from beginning of Christ's life all the way to the Crucifixion.. He paints the apostles as real human beings and their relationship with Jesus, is shown in everyday life with its normal challenges. He pulls you into the poverty of the people and the love Jesus has for them .I just could not get enough . I am looking forward to reading the authors next book

good book

Amazing!

Walt Wangerin is tops at giving us a glimpse into the lives and thoughts of First Century "big name" Christians. Writing this book from the perspective of Jesus' mother Mary made the book compelling to read. It will hold your attention and strengthen your faith.

I see that I am going against the grain in giving this book only 2 stars, but as in all my reviews I give my honest opinion as I see it. The 'editorial' comment was that it is "The most important story of the Christian faith." I don't know what that comment is based on. I read historical fiction on a daily basis. This book is a novel. An author can and does take certain liberties and embellishments when writing a novel. Wangerin took this to a new level as he attempts to introduce you to Christ. He portrays Jesus as a somewhat rude, self centered taskmasterthat comes off with an almost abrasive personality at times. To his credit, this author is a good story teller. I just find it unfortunate that he chose to alter the person of the 'real' Jesus to a point that in my opinion could do a lot of harm to someone that reads this book. Please get a Bible and read the book of John in order to find Jesus. It is much smaller than this novel and is filled only with truth. You will see a vast difference between a 'novel' and the true 'Word of God.'

I love Walter Wangerin Jr's books, have read nearly all of them. This book is part of a trio of books Mr Wangerin put out The Book of God, Paul and then Jesus .The story telling is from the perspective of John on the life of Jesus. It is just lovely.

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