

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to know

Christian Fiction

Fiction that promotes Christian teachings or exemplifies a Christian way of life.

A sub-genre in which works of imaginative literature overtly draw on Christian themes, theology, and social norms. In contrast to **Bible fiction**, Christian fiction does not always involve Biblical events or characters. Novels may fit into the sub-genre based on an explicit Christian message coupled with a depiction of the protagonist's crisis of faith and/or spiritual growth. Classic examples include Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy* (c. 1321), Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* (1392), John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* (1880), Lloyd C. Douglas's *The Robe* (1942), C. S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* (1942), Morris West's *The Shoes of the Fisherman* (1963), and Leonard Wibberley's *The Centurion* (1966). While earlier works were generally consistent with the Christian worldview, the twentieth century began to see the emergence of more heterodox examples, including Robert Graves's *King Jesus* (1946) and Nikos Kazantzakis's *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1950).

Common Elements

Acceptance of the Bible as truth
Belief in the Resurrection
Dealing with dilemmas through faith in Jesus
Biblical historicity
Miracles
God's explicit presence
Christian values

Redemption
Salvation
Persecution
Decency code
Dissenting portrayals
Realistic depictions
Modern influences
Postmodern influences

Benefits of Reading

Provides readers with a stress reliever
Presents encouraging and uplifting messages
Allows readers to observe people and their interactions with God

Offers readers new insights and understanding regarding real people
Increases readers' empathy

Modern Literary Examples

<i>At Home in Mitford</i> (1996) by Jan Karon
<i>The Book of Strange New Things</i> (2014) by Michel Faber

<i>A Dance in Donegal</i> (2021) by Jennifer Deibel
<i>Gabriel's Atonement</i> (2015) by Vickie McDonough

<i>Gilead</i> (2004) by Marilynne Robinson
<i>In the Shadow of Jezebel</i> (2014) by Mesu Andrews
<i>Iscaiot</i> (2013) by Tosca Lee
<i>Long Way Gone</i> (2016) by Charles Martin
<i>Logos</i> (2015) by John Neeleman
<i>Lost in Darkness</i> (2021) by Michelle Griep
<i>The Lost Letters of Pergamum</i> (2003) by Ben Witherington III
<i>Love Amid the Ashes</i> (2011) by Mesu Andrew
<i>Mary, Called Magdalene</i> (2003) by Margaret George
<i>Mist of Midnight</i> (2015) by Sandra Byrd
<i>The One You're With</i> (2021) by Lauren K. Denton

<i>Piercing the Darkness</i> (1989) by Frank E. Peretti
<i>The Prayer Box</i> (2013) by Lisa Wingate
<i>Redemption</i> (2002) by Gary Smalley and Karen Kingsbury
<i>Return to Me</i> (2013) by Lynn Austin
<i>The Shunning</i> (1997) by Beverly Lewis
<i>The Testament of Mary</i> (2012) by Colm Toibin
<i>This Present Darkness</i> (1986) by Frank E. Peretti
<i>A Voice in the Wind</i> (1993) by Francine Rivers