



Bright Evening Star: Mystery of the Incarnation

Madeleine L'Engle

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For over fifty years, L'Engle has been delighting and inspiring readers with her warm, eloquent prose, and inspirational poetry. She continues this tradition with *Bright Evening Star*, a personal reflection of the mystery and majesty of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. *Bright Evening Star* provides a glimpse into the life stories of this prolific author and her encounters with God. With a foreword by John Tesh, L'Engle invites us on a spiritual adventure that leads to hope, joy, and a closer relationship with Jesus. "Christmas," says Madeleine L'Engle, "should be a time of awed silence." If you're looking for a unique and Christ-centered Christmas meditation, *Bright Evening Star* will be a rich and delightful discovery -- year round!

Bright Evening Star: Mystery of the Incarnation Details

Date : Published October 16th 2001 by Shaw Books (first published 1997)

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Author : Madeleine L'Engle

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From Reader Review Bright Evening Star: Mystery of the Incarnation for online ebook

Cristina Adams says

I have discovered a kindred spirit in Madeleine, sharing reflections about Jesus across her life—what has always made sense, what never really makes sense, and how it all comes down to love.

Connie says

“Sometimes Madeleine writes things that are a little...out there. When you come across those parts, don’t get hung up. Just say to yourself, Ha ha. Oh that Madeleine and keep reading.”

~ Judy Hougen

I loved this quote Addie Zierman added to the foreword . After reading several books by Madeleine L’Engle recently, I can honestly say that I have felt both uplifted by her books and at other times puzzled. At this point, I’m going to keep on reading because I always walk away with some thoughts that enlarge my faith, and at other times, I smile when I come across something that goes against what I believe because that quote comes to mind.

I picked this book for the month of December, and it was a lovely choice. Madeleine’s Christian beliefs are largely influenced by her parents and Episcopal background. In this book, she shares her lifelong love of Jesus, and no matter how you feel about her beliefs, you can not possibly walk away from this book doubting her relationship and love for God. Like me, perhaps your own faith and love will be treasured in a deeper way.

I highly recommend her books, and feel this is worth 5 stars.

Martha says

3.5 stars. Not totally what I was expecting. Good, not great. More of a meditation and imagining, which is fine, but I would have liked a bit more theological oomph.

Rebecca says

“The story of Jesus’ birth has been oversentimentalized until it no longer has the ring of truth, and once we’d sentimentalized it we could commercialize it and so forget what Christmas is really about.” L’Engle believes in the power of storytelling, and in this short volume of memoir she retells the life story of Jesus and recalls her own experiences with suffering and joy: losing her father young (his lungs damaged by poison gas in

WWI) and the death of her husband of 40 years versus the sustaining nature of family love and late-life friendships. Chapters 4 and 5 are particular highlights.

L'Engle (1918-2007) was not at all your average American Christian: raised in the Episcopal tradition, she didn't even encounter Evangelicalism until her mid-forties, and she doesn't understand the focus on creationism and sexual morality. If God's time is different from ours, couldn't evolution make sense? "And why this obsession, which has been creeping up on us, for what goes on below the waist? I want to know what is in the heart and mind." She also writes about free will and the adoration of Mary and how *A Wrinkle in Time* (rejected by many a publisher) was her fable of light in the midst of darkness.

The title comes from The New Zealand Prayer Book, which also gives helpful alternate names for the persons of the Trinity: Earth Maker, Pain Bearer, Life Giver. This isn't a particularly Christmas-y book, but it still lends itself to being read a chapter at a time during Advent. [This edition seems to have been hurriedly repackaged with an iffy foreword from John Tesh, which makes it seem more New Agey than it really is.]

Some other favorite lines:

"Christ, in being born as Jesus, broke into time for us, so that time will never be the same again."

"Family can be a movable feast. It can be a group of friends sitting around the dining table for an evening. It can be one or two people coming to stay with me for a few nights or a few weeks. It should be the church, and I am grateful that my church is a small church."

Debbie Howell says

I like that Madeleine L'Engle can't be put in a box. Madeleine thinks like Madeleine. To me, the best part of this book was when she described how her thinking about God was influenced by her family and by the thinking "boxes" she encountered in various schools and churches. As much as I admire her strong voice, her writing doesn't usually draw me in and win me over. It's all head, and I want more heart. This book is no exception. Bright Evening Star is organized around the incarnation. It's not exactly a Christmas book, though it may look like one at first glance. I listened to the audio version, and maybe I would have connected better with the book on paper. There are some great flashes of insight in the book, but all in all it was just OK for me. If you love Madeleine L'Engle's essays, you'll probably like Bright Evening Star for the insights it offers into her thinking.

Kimberly Zimmerman says

I read this during the Advent and Christmas seasons. She gives the story of her faith through too her life, how it grew and where she trusted, where she doubted. Sparkling and intelligent and never dogmatic.

Michelle Kidwell says

Bright Evening Star

Mystery of the Incarnation

by Madeleine L'Engle

Crown Publishing

Convergent Books

Christian

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I am reviewing a copy of Bright Evening Star through Crown Publishing and Netgalley:

Bright Evening Star is Madeline L Engle personal reflections on the mystery and majesty of the Incarnation of Christ. The stories in this book look into the life stories and her encounters with God.

This book offers its readers who are looking for a unique Christ Centered book of Christmas Meditations a great choice.

I give Bright Evening Star five out of five stars!

Happy Reading

Jordan Carlson says

I really wanted to love this book...

I do love Madeleine L'Engle for her conversational style, her honest and wrestling faith, her acceptance and even reverence of the things that reside for now in the realm of 'mystery' ...also her love for Jesus and familiarity with the gospels. The wonder she brings to life while not shying away from the brokenness ...that is the draw for me.

However, her theology seems really bad to me in places (esp sovereignty of God, free will, etc)...and she puts forward poor arguments against literal 7 day Creation and Calvinism. A couple of other points she made just didn't ring true and turned me off from enjoying this book more.

Courtney says

This is a book of reflections by a seasoned author in her later years. The first part of the book focuses more on her own experience and memories. As the book proceeds, she provides a rather loose, free-form retelling of the life of Jesus (with her own comments along the way). I enjoyed reading this book aloud with my husband, inspiring some quiet contemplation.

Apryl Anderson says

Why did I wake at 3am last night? I don't know. I am so grateful that this book called to me from the Jacob's

Ladder of unread books next to my bed. L'Engle not only saw the universe for everything it is, she had the ability and the courage to share her vision. She's my mentor.

(new review 20 Sep 2012) I suppose this is a good one to keep next to the bed, because here I am again. It's so obvious that she was influenced by Bach's music. The rhythm of her words dances and flows like a fugue and variations, as she flows in and out of ideas and visions, leading us further, and bringing us home again.

It's said that you will never change anyone's mind by what you say, and I find that L'Engle never changes mine, but she elaborates and expands what I had tucked in the quiet corners all along.

(30 dec 2016) How I wish I'd known her in this life!

Ali M. says

Advent Read #1 of 3: Not my favorite L'Engle—it contains a lot of ideas/questions that are developed in greater depth in her other nonfic—but her voice is always a comfort.

Jenny says

L'Engle's analysis of the Incarnation is part autobiography and part theography. It's a wonderful story of choosing love over power and truth over fact. I enjoy L'Engle's voice and her openness about her own feelings and beliefs, along with the stories she shares about family, friends, and loved ones. Her interpretation of Scripture is true to the Word, and she always brings all her opinions back to the Bible. Nothing that she says is not based in the Gospels. She doesn't form random opinions that have nothing to do with God.

I highly recommend this book to anybody struggling with seeing God as wrathful and angry rather than as Love, which is what He really is. If you're unsure of why bad things happen, read this book. It's not the Bible, but it's a useful tool, a second reference. I enjoyed it for the affirmation of what I already know and believe. It pleased me to read a book by a famous author about the God that I love. I'm glad that L'Engle published a book like this and wasn't afraid to be criticized for writing the truth.

This book is well-written and interesting, whether you're a Christian, a fan of L'Engle, or both.

Madison Boboltz says

Well... it's official.... I? must read everything L'Engle has written. This book will definitely be revisited around Christmas season through the years. So refreshing, inspiring, moving, honest... I'm so blown away.

Joy says

Another thoughtful book by M. L'Engle. Her writing is easy and almost conversational. I do like that. Her Christian perspective is influenced by her Episcopal background, but she relates with a wider world of Christians, so I like what she says. A big part of this book is sharing her love of story -- in books and in the Bible. Jesus did use stories a lot to teach. L'Engle makes the point that we learn truth through story best.

"Because my mother grew up nourished and informed by story, she and her cousins were able to see needs ignored by those who had not been given the empathy that comes from the insight of story."

Wisdom:

"If you can make someone afraid, you have power over that person."

"We want security. We want comfort. We want affluence. None of these give us freedom... I have children and grandchildren, and they give me vulnerability, not security... Love offers us the greatest joy and the greatest pain."

"In the sects and cults freedom is relinquished for answers, answers to everything."

"It takes more power than I can imagine to give up power."

"There is much that I don't understand that enriches my life."

Chre says

Will likely become an annual addition to my Advent Devotional.
