



Eli

Bill Myers

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A great read for any enthusiast.

Eli Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2000)

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Author : Bill Myers

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From Reader Review Eli for online ebook

Joe Stout says

Not actually all that great. The premise is that Jesus comes in the present day. I just couldn't wrap my mind around the fact that Bill Myers assumes the future would be the same whether Jesus had come 2000 years ago or today. Everything we see around us has had the influence of Christ. Nothing can escape that.

Jessica says

So this is kind of a weird book to review. This is actually the second time I've read it- the first time was when I was a kid, and I pulled it off my parents' bookshelf because it looked interesting. I remembered bits of it, and a few weeks ago decided I wanted to read it again.

It's still an interesting book. The writing style is pretty hokey in places, I won't lie, but then again flawless writing style isn't really the point of the book. It is basically a retelling of the Gospel story, set in the modern day. It's really interesting to read the stories again set with modern styles and meanings. Instead of being born in a manger (seriously, who does that anymore?) he is born in a motel laundry room. Instead of fish and loaves, he feeds a crowd with a burger and side of fries (it's set in America, after all). Instead of throwing out the moneychangers from the temple, he trashes a gift shop in a overly-elaborate mega-church.

Again, a lot of it is kind of hokey, but in the end it's okay because it really does recast these stories in a new light. It's easy to think "hey, no one has money changers in their churches anymore, it's all good" when really you've got the same effect from a million other influences. It stuck with me as a kid (I never did like mega-churches) and I'm glad to have reread it. It's a pretty good "thinkin' book".

Thebuffywilson says

Very thought provoking book. I found myself going back through the gospels to compare the stories of Jesus's life to what I was reading in Eli. This book places the setting of Jesus's story in modern day. I now completely "get" why Jesus was so controversial and such a threat to the establishment.

Clickety says

This parallel history imagines what the world would be like if Christmas occurred not 2000 years ago, but 30 years ago. Some of the "bad guy" characters are a bit over the top, but it really clarifies how pathetic they truly are, rather than trying to make them seem Uber Evil.

Since I was familiar with the gospels' version of the events, I was familiar with the parallels the author made, and it kept me guessing about which character represented whom (with a few obvious exceptions).

As a general rule, I dislike "Christian" fiction intensely. When authors imply that XYZ happening is God's will for the characters, it creeps me out. It implies that God's thoughts are like the author's thoughts, which totally goes against Scripture. Myers was more subtle than that.

Intriguing and refreshing. One of my favorites.

Evan Taylor says

Bill Myers, Eli, copyright:2000, ZondervanPublishingHouse, Grand Rapids, Michigan,

This book by Bill Myers, "Eli" follows the story of a TV Journalist named Conrad Davis. He is thrown into another world after a car accident. He is thrown into a world where Jesus Christ was not born 2,000 years ago, but born in today's society. Jesus in this book is a man named Eli Shepard, who goes around doing what Jesus did but in a white shirt and blue jeans.

The first act of the book when Conrad is thrown into the alternate universe immediately had me hooked. He is thrown into a dystopian universe and it reminded me of the Time Machine and 1984 mixed together. It was interesting to see how it would be like if Jesus was in our current timeline. It was not what I expected it to be and I was a little dissatisfied. I wanted Jesus to have a bigger impact on the world. I wanted him to challenge the world and her leaders and have the leaders try to fight back and contain him. I also did not like how the book changed the name of Jesus to Eli. It did not make me connect to him and have as much of an impact as it would if his name was just Jesus.

If your interested in alternate universes, dystopia, alternate timelines, then this is a good book to pick up and read. It(in my humble opinion) will not have a great impact on you when compared to other dystopia era novels. And if you are a believer of Christ, it may not be what you expect and may be somewhat dissatisfied in some parts of the novel. I would recommend this if you are sick of reading anything else and want to try something, somewhat new.

Laura Smith says

I heard author, Bill Myers, speak at a Christian writer's conference in California last spring. His voice mesmerized me. His message captivated me. At the end of the conference I purchased his book, Eli, for my husband and had Bill sign it for him, secretly knowing I would also benefit from this "gift". I let it sit on my hubby's shelf with his other "to be read" books. I plowed through my pile of "to be read" books, until December, a month off book club, fewer school days, fewer activities, more nights by the fire.

I pulled Eli off my husband's shelf and dove in.

Eli is the retelling of the gospel (in novel form), like you've never heard it before. It's twisted out of its familiar settings and verses into today's terms. I take such comfort in my tried and true Bible, but I must admit, I sometimes take for granted or skim over the deep lying messages within. What if Christ had been born in Santa Monica in the early 70's and a bunch of hippies were told by some glowing dudes they would find a new king, someone to change the world, in the laundry room of a motel, wrapped in motel towels? Bill Myers describes down to the beads and scent of smoke what it would be like. If I were in that motel, would I believe?

The nativity presented in this manner drew me in as I gazed at the stockings hanging by our fireplace. As I read on, Eli helped me reposition front and center in my mind what Christmas is all about.

Follow Eli Shepherd as he heals the lame, feeds the hungry, gives sight to the blind and raises the dead - all

with twentieth century paparazzi, politics and media.

Read this book.

Hear his message of love.

Ponder if you would follow him.

Sarah Honkanen says

I loved this book and made it a book club selection last year. My whole family listened to this in the car.

The story will stay with you a long time.

My favorite quote is "you are only as good as your word".

which maybe isn't so good. hopefully,if given the chance, you can always try again.

Cheryl says

I can't recommend this book strongly enough. Reading Jesus' story set in contemporary times helped me to see what the Bible has to say in a fresh light and this novel has had a profound, lasting effect on my faith and how I see what it means to be like Jesus. Absolutely, absolutely read this. At worst, you'll have enjoyed a well-written novel that deserves a place on the bookshelf of every Christian reader.

Cameron says

I thought this was a very interesting concept, and I wanted to like it, but just couldn't. Maybe if it was a shorter book (432 pages?) it would have been worth finishing, but I've made it half way through and can't justify spending more time. I'm afraid what was a great concept was buried in a long, long book. Some story lines in the book are just ridiculous - beer that never runs out - because Eli (aka Jesus) is there? Come on! The story flings you back and forth between a man in a coma / altered state, and being a follower of Eli. The author had a great opportunity with this idea, and I feel it was wasted. Many others liked this book, and it's probably worth a try if you're interested, but it just wasn't for me.

Caitlin says

3.5 Stars

This book helped me to picture what life may have been like for the disciples of Jesus. It was a fast read, and gave me a better understanding of biblical events.

Gwen says

In this evangelical novel, Myers utilizes a lot of dialogue to move the story along fairly quickly, and the parallel occurrences between the two worlds come together neatly. There is also a fair amount of action, and because Conrad is transported into a parallel universe where God sends his son to earth in modern day society, there is a challenge in trying to connect the experiences Eli and his followers go through with the experiences known of Jesus from the Bible. All of the characters are flawed, grasping with their faith in God and His Son, although only Conrad and his daughter are fleshed out in any detail. Some are fleshed out just enough to be unbelievable. Instead, Myers relies on the ideas and teachings of the Bible to carry the story. The mood is mainly curious and romantic for Conrad in the parallel world, and more sad and contemplative for his daughter. Although Myers often employs a humorous tone, he also sometimes gets very preachy.

Tara says

What if Jesus had been born in our modern era instead of 2000 years ago?

An amazing storyteller, Bill Myers, provides a riveting look into this alternate possibility. A man of Jewish descent is born to a young couple in 1970s Santa Monica, California during the height of the hippy movement. Told through the eyes of Conrad Davis, a man who questions everything to do with faith and who is catapulted into an alternate universe where Jesus has not existed...until now. Taking human form as Eli Shepherd, the Messiah walks along the California communities introducing His ministry that introduces the Kingdom of God amongst the backlash of Big Americanized Religion. The parables are the same, just a different setting. The feeding of the 5,000 occurs beside a lake in a quiet California community, where not fish and bread multiplied, but burgers and fries! The healing of the demonic occurs on a CA overpass when a homeless woman is freed of her captors, and the demons are cast into her band of feral cats. The driving out of the money handlers of the temple takes place at the heaven/worship theme park in Georgia. And most shocking of all, is the unjust arrest and conviction of the Messiah Eli wherein he is wrongly accused of a horrendous attack of a worship center. Powerful and wealthy religious leaders use their political sway to set Eli up, ending in His unjustly lynching and His ultimate sacrifice. While this is merely fiction, as the author prefaces, it offers a gut wrenching and eye opening view into what it could have been like had Jesus postponed his coming until our modern age. I dare you to come away unchanged by this phenomenal fictional portrayal of our Savior's ministry and sacrifice.

Nicole says

A very thought-provoking novel about what it would be like if Jesus came now for the first time.

Whitaker says

A really great book shows us how everything is great and worth to die for

Jeremy Bullard says

I read Eli a few years back. I've never been a huge fan of Christian fiction, but I found it at the local Goodwill and figured it looked interesting. Never would I have imagined that I'd still be referencing it some ten years later.

I can't really speak to the writing style of the author, as some folks have. I've always been of the mind that an author's job is to connect with the reader. Do that effectively, and the reader will forgive any number of literary sins. Do it poorly, and it won't matter how eloquent they write -- the story will fall flat.

I found Eli very easy to read, and quite engrossing. Sure, there are concepts that I didn't really care for, but consider the story being told. This is Jesus, in Jesus' time, with that time being today. Jesus had a bit of a following before the Crucifixion, but it was small potatoes compared to what He had just forty days later, let alone at the formation of the canon, some 350 years later. Jesus changed the whole world... but not during His earthly lifetime. In His day, very few realized the full significance of His coming.

So it is with Eli. He had a profound impact on those close to him, but we don't follow his story long enough for him to "change the world". We only know that it's coming because we knew how it happened for Christ.

The thing that sticks with me about the story is this one revelation that I'm sure I'd thought a thousand times, but never really considered it directly. It's the seemingly contradictory nature of God's interaction with man. God is absolutely, infinitely holy, so His sense of justice cannot be compromised. By the same token, God is absolutely, infinitely loving and merciful, so His sense of love cannot be compromised. With the advent of sin, these two natures would seem to conflict. God CAN'T simply forgive -- that would compromise His holiness. But neither can He simply sit in judgment -- that would compromise His mercy. So we're at an impasse.

Enter Jesus, who PERFECTLY satisfies BOTH His holiness AND His mercy. In Jesus, God passes a holy, righteous, unflinching, merciless judgment... and then satisfies it Himself. God demands the Lamb, then provides Himself AS the Lamb.

The revelation of this concept, and the way Bill Myers describes it at the climax of the book, is well worth reading whatever imperfections the rest of the book contains. Myers does this masterfully :)
