



Judas My Brother

Frank Yerby

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The sinner and the savior, His name was Nathan-bar-Yehudah. He was born to wealth, power, worldliness. Yet strangely enough, his features closely resembled a youth who was his total opposite-a poverty-stricken carpenter's son from Galilee. and though Nathan chose the path of physical adventure and sensual excess, his life was intertwined with that of the man called Jesus of Nazareth- until their moment of confrontation and truth in the shadow of the cross... Frank Yerby's most magnificent novel- Judas, My brother "brings alive the great, sprawling, barbaric world of the first century...a rousing novel... a great story-teller".

Judas My Brother Details

Date : Published March 1st 1978 by Dell Publishing Company (first published January 1st 1968)

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Author : Frank Yerby

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From Reader Review Judas My Brother for online ebook

Carol Rose Stark Neal says

historical fiction describing the times of Christ

Annora Nin says

This book, I don't even know what to say, I was so impressed by it, so impressed by the amount of meticulous research that went into it, by the depth of it, so drawn in by this story, you could almost feel you were actually there living in the times of Jesus. I also have never read a work of fiction that had me flipping to the back pages for the footnotes so frequently. The research really was pain-staking on this book, thoroughly thorough. And if you don't believe everything you read in the Bible, don't worry, the author didn't either. This wasn't a book of blind acceptance of The Good Book. It was a book written from a rational, questioning mind interested in the facts of the story, and that made it all the more interesting.

A friend gave me his old copy and I'm afraid by the time I finished it the binding was falling apart to the extent that I was holding the book together as I was reading it. Because it was falling apart I wasn't interested in keeping it so after I finished it this afternoon I left it on the bus, where I hope someone else will pick it up and enjoy it as much as I did. That's not to say I am not interested in never reading it again. I'm very much interested in finding another copy or two of the book that are in better shape than the one I let go of, one for me to keep and read again (digging more into the references in the footnotes) and another copy to loan to friends. That's how much I loved this book. I had never heard of Frank Yerby before this book fell into my hands. I am most interested in him now and will be keeping my eyes open for more of his books.

Tom says

While I have read most of Yerby's novels (some so long ago that I have forgotten the plots) this is his work that most influenced my own humble writings. It is the story of Jesus's 13th disciple. In Judas my Brother, as in all his novels, Yerby seeks to tell an entertaining story and to educate his readers. As in his Greek, Roman, Arabic, and southern plantation adventures, he tries to demythologize the events of the times. In this story, he attempts to demythologize the events surrounding the life of Jesus.

Since I can't find my copy right now, I quote from Wikipedia who quotes from the cover of the book:

The author warns "those emotionally dependent upon the Christian Religion" to read no further. The sleeve notes continue:

"This novel touches on only two issues which, in a certain sense, might be called controversial: whether any man truly has the right to believe fanciful and childish nonsense; and whether any organization has the right to impose, by almost imperial fiat, belief in things that simply are not so. To me, irrationality is dangerous; perhaps the most dangerous force stalking through the world today. This novel, then, is one man's plea for an ecumenicism broad enough to include reasonable men; and his effort to defend his modest intellect from intolerable insult."

I suppose this is where I lifted the phrase that appears on the "About the Author" page in my novels, where I

describe myself as "a Humanist who believes that irrationality is the most dangerous force in the universe."

Jim Vuksic says

What fascinated me most about this story was the fact that anyone, even Frank Yerby, who was known for his amazing, out-of-the-box thinking, could come up with such a premise as the one depicted in "Judas, My Brother".

It is too difficult to relate very much about this novel without unintentionally letting s spoiler or two, or three slip; so I won't.

I believe that open-minded, pragmatic readers will be enthralled by and thoroughly enjoy this imaginative portrayal of the life and times of Joshua, the Nazarene, better known by the unique name given him by religious people decades after his death: Jesus of Nazareth, and the Roman aristocrat who, for some strange reason, looks an awful lot like the poor, humble carpenter's son.

Conservative, born-again Christians - not so much.

Gerry Germond says

This is one of Yerby's bigger novels. Once again, we have a hero, or protagonist, who is extremely capable, and needs to be, for all that happens to him. And who bears an uncanny resemblance to one Yeshu'a ha Notzri, that is, Jesus of Nazareth. This is Yerby's take on the Christian mythology, complete with thirty-eight pages with 301 endnotes. He even goes so far as to warn the reader not to buy this novel if he is emotionally dependent upon religious dogma, which seems a bit much in 2017—but perhaps not.

So here is the story of Jesus presented as if it were fact, with the miracles explained and the Gospels pretty much debunked or explained in the footnotes. Finally, as the author hoped, it's a "rattling good tale." The conclusion seemed a far stretch to me, perhaps not to others. It's entertaining, educational, and perhaps will be upsetting to the devout. Enjoy the ride.

Jane says

I first read this book as a 13 year old who found it in a box kept aside for charity giveaways. I was mesmerized, shocked and shaken to the bones by the storyline and just the possibility of it all..having grown up in a strict Christian home. A wonderfully told tale describing love, treachery, anger and helplessness making one question the very essence of belief. Recently had the opportunity to read it again and was not disappointed

Cody VC says

Made it about 85 pages in and had to stop; I tend to enjoy pulpy novels of the '60s and '70s but this was just ridiculous. Helvetia was singularly annoying--all she did was cry and be ~innocent~ (which seems highly unlikely, historically speaking)--and Nathan is unbelievably whiny, Jesus Christ. I mean, The Persian Boy was better than this.

Of course the gender/sexual politics in this book are totally fucked, but I probably could have put up with that if there had been less harping on Helvetia's ~innocence~ and if the pacing had been better. Too bad; it was an interesting premise.

Morris Nelms says

It's a good book about the times written by a man who does not believe Jesus is the Messiah. I would still recommend it because he did a lot of research and the writing is quite good. Some of his arguments with the gospels are far fetched, and his alternative explanation of the resurrection and the missing body is more implausible than the gospels' explanation.

Owen says

One of the most intriguing and fascinating books I have ever read. A new slant on an old theme - the story of Jesus - told by a friend and contemporary who was born into wealthy circumstances, descends into the depraved Roman society, and eventually through his contact with Jesus and his family, is restored to respectability. Yerby, probably the first author of coloured origin to achieve recognition in the USA, is gifted with remarkable descriptive ability, transporting the reader into the homes of not only Jesus, but Pontius Pilate and his wife, Claudia, and even the Essenes in a totally believable way without making the visits seem contrived. This book may not be to the taste of all, in particular devotees of Mary Magdalene, and it may stretch the imagination in the way that Yerby takes liberties with the universally accepted story, but it makes for excellent reading as a fiction intermingled with factual characters.

John says

A very difficult book for me to review. Of course it was well written which is always expected of this author, BUT I never was drawn into it, did not enjoy reading it. Could be because of my low opinion of the bible and anything religious, I am certain that it deserves 5 stars by 99% of the readers but not me.

Rob says

Jesus from a very different perspective. I don't know if it's accurate, (example, Yerby's take on 'Render unto Caesar') although some of it seems to be (such as Yerby's characterization of Pilate), but it gives one new ground to stand on to contemplate a story central to Western thought, and does it with a vastly greater realism than, say, Mel Gibson's torture-trash film.

Love it or hate it, I think this is a must-read for anyone, especially if you're a fan of *The Passion of the Christ*.
