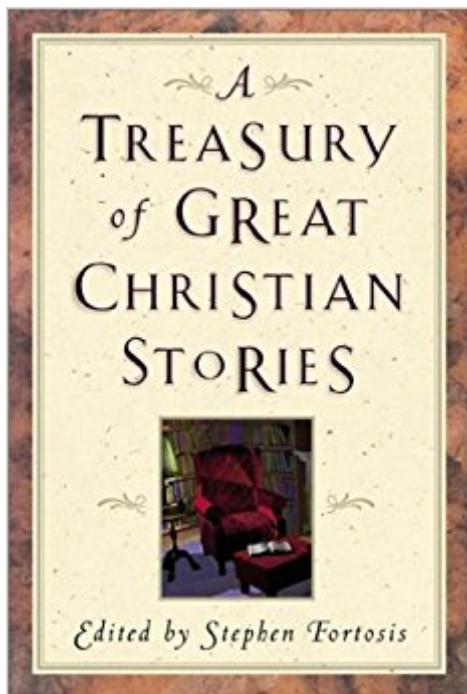


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# A Treasury Of Great Christian Stories



## Synopsis

The power of a good story shines through this collection of some of Christianity's most beloved tales. Includes both classic and contemporary stories.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Baker Books (July 2001)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Religious story collections have been a welcome staple in the CBA market, but this digest is disappointingly lukewarm. The compilation kicks off powerfully, with an excerpt from C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* followed several chapters later by a delightful sampling from "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Fortosis does a fine job writing brief introductions that give the reader some context for each selection. He scores points by including enjoyable, lesser-known pieces such as "The Pineapple Story," by Otto Koning, as well as the poignant classic "Where Love Is, God Is," by Leo Tolstoy, and the beautiful, questioning "Tim," by contemporary writer Philip Gulley. But these are the bright spots. There's a less-than-satisfying contemporary retelling of "Pilgrim's Progress," and some rather dull selections, like "Concerning Lemons." With the wealth of quality classic and contemporary Christian literature to draw from, it's inexcusable to advance multiple offerings from a single author; William Barton alone has four. Any of Fortosis's subhead categories, such as "Childhood Simplicities," might have been better fleshed out as whole books, rather than having selections that meander all over the literary landscape. Although the idea of a collection of classic Christian stories is promising (if not terribly original), this anthology will make readers sigh over lost opportunities. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4 & Up--An uneven collection of writings, not necessarily stories and not necessarily written for children. Of the 38 selections, some are excerpts from novels, others almost sermons, while others are stories or remembrances. Readers will find a chapter from C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," and Leo Tolstoy's "Where Love Is, God Is." Fortosis shortens Barbara Robinson's *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* into 14 pages and rewrites John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* as a contemporary tale. Less-well-known authors make up the rest of the volume. Colin Greer and Herbert R. Kohl's anthology, *A Call to Character* (HarperCollins, 1997), is a richer and larger collection for libraries. This one is marginal at best. Linda Beck, Indian Valley Public Library, Telford, PA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I believe this book is a sleeper. It has some fine stories in it, but did not receive rave reviews from several critics. One mark of a good compilation is the revelation of well-written pieces that are not widely known. This book contains such stories with titles such as *A Man Called Norman*, *The Executioner*, *The Pineapple Story*, and others. The volume also contains pieces from well known writers such as Dostoyevski, Hugo, France, O'Henry, C.S. Lewis, Tolstoy, and others. The Library Journal seemed to be looking for a volume compiled for one specific age group, but the editor purposely broke the book into categories for various age groups. It's a bit sad that one negative review by Publisher's Weekly can cripple the sales of a fine book. Check out this book for yourself, and I think you will consider it money very well spent.

In my humble opinion, Publisher's Weekly underrates this collection of Christian stories. They completely ignore the fact that the compiler includes stories by such luminaries as Hugo, Dostoevsky, O. Henry, and France. The Weekly also seems oblivious to the fact that Christian writers such as Walter Wangerin, Mark Littleton, Ruth Graham, and Joseph Bayly are either award-winning writers or are highly respected storytellers in the Christian world. Features such as the author's interesting introductions to each story were also well conceived. While it's true that more than one story from a particular author weakened the anthology a bit, the book is still a fine collection that will gain in recognition with time.

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