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Marjorie Holmes, the award-winning author of such classic bestsellers as *I've Got to Talk to Somebody, God*, was renowned for making the Bible come to life in books that brought hope and inspiration to millions. The first novel in this trilogy-her acclaimed, hugely successful *Two from Galilee*-told the great love story of Mary and Joseph as never before.

Now, in *Three from Galilee*, Holmes's fictionalized retelling of the life of Jesus covers a period overlooked by the Gospels-the "lost years" between age 12, when Jesus debated the elders in the temple, to the age of 30, when he actually began his ministry. With great reverence, she dares to wonder what Jesus did during those years, if he was like other young men of his time, and whether he experienced God's greatest gift to humanity-love. Using her remarkable talents, Holmes brings Jesus, his parents, brothers, sisters, and friends to life in a story that is dramatic, deeply moving, and unforgettable.

Three From Galilee: The Young Man from Nazareth Details

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From Reader Review Three From Galilee: The Young Man from Nazareth for online ebook

Joanne Otto says

Somewhat sentimentalized, but beautifully written, thorough research of the culture of first-century Middle East, and an evident devotion to her subject.

Carol says

3.5 stars. I have recently read several historic fiction books with settings and characters from the New Testament. I liked this best - I think the writing is less old-fashioned. Mostly I read it as a fantasy with characters whose names matched up with members of Jesus' family. That way, any anachronisms were less annoying. And I could skip over the theological differences.

The author included inspiration from some of the well known parables, and based some incidents in the book on them, letting Jesus and his family play the parts of, for example, the lost sheep and the prodigal son. There was a fairly lengthy set-up for the latter and I could see it coming - still it was well presented, including the attitude of the faithful son and the loving response of the father to his concern.

This is actually book 2 of a trilogy. The first book, Two From Galilee is described as a love story of Mary and Joseph. The third one is called the Messiah, and finishes the story from the gospels. I haven't read either one, and probably won't bother. The book was from the library and I worried whether the remaining week would let me finish it. I need not have been concerned, I wrapped it up the very next day after counting the number of chapters remaining.

Alyce says

It was great! Holmes shows the human side of Jesus in a beautiful narrative voice. Her writing is flowery and a little cumbersome at first, but once you get into it, you cannot put it down.

Kerith says

I first read this when I was in high school, I think, or at least the early years of college -- I had certainly very recently become a Christian at the time. I remember thoroughly enjoying Holmes's three books. It's interesting to go back and read this now, a little under 20 years later. While still clearly fiction and a good, quick read, it falls short for me. It is just too romanticized, and very clearly based on a literal reading of the gospels (this can be seen even though this novel is based on the "lost years" of Christ's life). Everything is...sanitized. This is fine, as it is fiction after all, but for those of us who have read the Bible many, many times, and have a fascination for the history behind it, it is not enough.

Still, Three From Galilee is worth a read.

Clarence Mendiola says

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Teresa says

A beautiful book that brought me closer to the birth of Christ and what love God has for us. I wept reading this book, a love story for mankind.

Debbie Lockledge says

This is a well written book about how Jesus' adolescent through young adult years may have been, building on the information we have in Scripture & the customs of the time and location of those years of His life. While there were some areas I thought were a little bit of a stretch, I thoroughly enjoyed it and can't wait to read the last book in this trilogy.

Monica says

I wouldn't say that I agreed with everything in this book. Nor can I say that I devoured it with the rate I would have if it would have been about someone that wasn't real and not of Someone who is real and whose life I have read lots about.

I will say that it was neat because it helped me to see Jesus' life before His time had come to teach and heal in the world. It shows Him as being a human, which He was. It shows His trials as a real man, helping me know that He truly suffered like each of us suffer.

I really did like it. Parts of it I had a little hard time getting past, but I was glad that I kept going. It was enlightening and I enjoyed it.

Candice Beever says

A historical fiction about Jesus as a child and the early part of manhood, ending just after he's been tempted in the desert and sets out to find his first disciple.

I've never really been able to grasp the idea of Jesus. Of course, I understood that he was the sacrificial lamb, dying for my sins. I got that part. But I could never picture any human living without sin. Any sin. It's beyond comprehension. But this story helped me to imagine it. To see Jesus for the man he was. To understand his love.

Like 'Two From Galilee' this story also jumped POVs. Although what threw me more was the timeline. The story occasionally revealed information as if it were happening only to back-up to before it happened. It wasn't bad, but it always made me stop a second and sometimes I really had no idea how old Jesus was supposed to be.

Still a really good story and one I would recommend to people, especially those struggling through their faith as I am right now.

Beth Sponzilli says

I enjoyed the first book in this series of Mary and Joseph, and the birth of Jesus. This book continues the story, of Jesus's childhood and early adulthood. There is little known of his years before age 30, so of course many liberties were taken by the author. She uses all the facts that are known and weaves in how it could have been also. A very interesting book and a unique way to learn the Bible stories.

Frankie says

Three From Galilee well-depicts the unrecorded childhood of Jesus Christ, including the believable, multifaceted aspects of what is in an adolescent's life today. It has an intriguing prompt of expressing Jesus's 'missing years' in the Bible, and the author has a unique way of interpreting what had happened throughout this time. At the beginning of the book (entitled "Boyhood"), it shows Jesus as a toddler and as a pre-teenager, and the second half portrays Him as a young man ("Young Manhood"). He has a dog named Jubal, many siblings, a loving family, and he finds himself facing many everyday trials that are often still prompted by society today. One of the main themes throughout the book was that Jesus was a regular person. He felt both our physical and emotional pain, in which it shows that the only difference between us and Him was that he was the son of God, and He consciously chose not to sin.

Readers were easily able to grow with the characters throughout the novel, although most especially alongside Jesus. Any Catholic readers who grew up with Christ were able to experience how He grew up, and develop a new closeness with Him. Something that was essential throughout the book is that Jesus shows a strong connection with animals. For example, He freed a trapped dove when He was a child, was unwilling to sacrifice a lamb during His first visit to a Jerusalem, and He grew up with a dog named Jubal (despite the fact that it was frowned upon if people of his class owned a canine). Holmes shows how much Jesus cared for His animal friend on page 65 of her novel, in which Mary says "'...It isn't the custom for people like us to have a dog.' Jesus sat upright. 'Bad customs should be changed, Mother!'" This showed that Jesus loved Jubal, and was willing to change the societal norms in order to keep him. The author also used descriptive vocabulary, and did a wonderful job in showing and not telling the readers what the scenery looked like. An example of one of these vivid moments include when Mary was showing the toddler Jesus what the world had to offer: "The sun was bright; the air was sweet with the perfume of hyacinths—whole hillsides were painted with their blue, as if someone had dumped on them buckets of sky" (Holmes, 24). The author could have used much less descriptive and more simple phrasing, such as 'the scene was beautiful,' although it was easy to tell that Holmes took a lot of time and effort into her writing.

Overall, this book was extremely enjoyable. I was impressed that Marjorie Holmes was able to put all of the aspects of a child's life today inside of it. It had an intriguing plot, lovable characters, and descriptions of

settings that could make anyone feel as if they were right there. This book is a wonderful read. The fact that it was so believable only makes readers want to read more, and it is quite easy to feel present every step of the way.

Van Reese says

Where do I begin? First off, not being a follower of Catholic theology, I naturally differed in the interpretations given. The author tried too hard to make Jesus' family be the source of several biblical parables. Aside from Mary and Joseph, His family are kind of whiney losers. Jesus came off as a really nice guy, but not the literal Son of God. She takes away from His divinity. Also, Jesus is portrayed as almost scornful of the Mosaic Law which I don't picture really happening. My biggest issue was how marriage relations are portrayed as a necessary evil to perpetuate the human race, but basically sinful. The celibacy thing just doesn't make sense for me. Also, several times it went from fiction to science fiction or even fantasy. The bottom line, too many doctrinal disagreements for me.

Lacey Louwagie says

I should probably start out by saying that this is a very high three stars. There were a lot of things this book did right. The writing was vivid and beautiful in places, and like all books that seek to humanize Jesus, this one captured my heart and my attention with the possibility of who this iconic person really was. This book covers Jesus' childhood, which, as we all know, is barely mentioned in Scripture, so there's a lot of room for artistic license. And with the license that Marjorie Holmes took, it was clear from her writing that she did so in a way that was loving toward the religious tradition begun by Jesus and all those who follow it.

Even so, this book works because it still took a few risks, although portraying Jesus as fully human should hardly be perceived as a risk (yet, contrasted with much of the Catholic writing on the subject, in which Jesus was born in a burst of light and not vaginally, and in which he spoke full sentences at birth, you can see why this is refreshing). The book is probably most compelling in the way it examines Jesus against the backdrop of his family -- the way he fits a little awkwardly into the picture as eldest son, who remains unmarried even after most of his younger siblings already have families; in the tension between him and his siblings because they've always sensed something "different" about him and the way their parents respond to him. As such, this isn't just a book about Jesus, but about the family that surrounded him -- siblings, parents, grandparents, inlaws, pets, etc., all quite well developed and drawn.

Now, for the few issues I had with the book that kept it from getting its four stars. There were a few times when Marjorie Holmes fell into "authorial intrusion," inserting a paragraph here or there to "justify" why she had written a certain thing, such as the story's assertion that Mary and Joseph had sexual relations after the birth of Jesus -- a paragraph that seemed inserted purely for the "benefit" of the Catholics who may have stumbled upon this book (like me ;)). And it's hard to write about Jesus, who epitomizes perfection to so many people, without coming across as a bit ... precious. Also, sometimes it felt like Marjorie tried *too* hard to work certain of Jesus' parables and teachings into his childhood experiences, so that his family life was something of a grab bag of Scriptural lessons. I guess that irked me because the whole point of parables is that they're stories that *stand for* something else -- they sort of lose their meaning when they just become Jesus' childhood memories. Then it's like he's just justifying the way he was raised rather than imparting transcendent wisdom.

Bonita says

This book was an amazing continuation of the original "Two From Galilee". You can't read one without reading the other to get the full story, so don't expect to read only one of them. I read these when they first came out, and since then have moved many times and lost my copies. But I'm seriously considering buying another copy of each to reread them with my daughter. Great story that brings the story of Jesus to life in our imaginations. It also gives us details on what life was like when Jesus walked on earth. Great book and a must read!

Bob says

First of all, this is a great story, very well written, and clearly by an author with a heart for sharing God with her readers.

Now, I am an avid reader. I love books and stories. I apply to God my own personal view of Him as an Author Who loves stories so much that He has created the ultimate in-depth, hands-on, interactive story. Because of this, I do not mind when a writer takes "liberties" with facts in order to deliver the story.

This is important in reading Three From Galilee, because her story will challenge many ideas and ideals held by so many readers. Jesus - Lord and savior, God incarnate, king of kings - is portrayed in His fully-God-fully-Man presence as wholly Man.

Confused about His true nature, feeling out of place with almost everyone around Him, wrestling with all the humanness of this world, Jesus is wandering somewhat blindly. And the situations can shake some readers to their core. For example, Jesus dealing with the feelings of sexual awakening when He sees a beautiful young woman bathing (how like David, His forebear!), and then falls in LOVE with her! His holiness and his fleshliness conflict like so many of His earthling children's do, too.

Ms. Holmes has created a great story, as I said at the first. In order to fully enjoy it, though, you must open your heart and your mind.
