



## Mary: Chosen of God

*Diana Wallis Taylor*

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## **Mary: Chosen of God** Diana Wallis Taylor

"Blessed are you, Mary, chosen of God." Mary is ordinary girl from Nazareth. She helps her mother with household chores, she daydreams about a handsome carpenter's son named Joseph, and at night she lies on the roof and contemplates at the stars. But one evening, a heavenly visitor comes with unexpected news; and her life is changed forever. Experience the life of the Messiah from the perspective of his mother, who must place her trust and obedience in Adonai, the Most High, as he fulfills centuries of anticipation in the middle of her daily life. Walk with Mary as she witnesses Yeshua grow, mature, minister, and even crucified; and then raised again, to the kindling of her new faith.

## **Mary: Chosen of God Details**

Date : Published August 4th 2016 by Whitaker House

ISBN : 9781629117485

Author : Diana Wallis Taylor

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Biblical Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Religion

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## From Reader Review Mary: Chosen of God for online ebook

### Amy says

This book, although actually a bit different than I expected, was quite interesting. Diana does a really good job of bringing the time period and characters to life. It was engaging to read about Mary as she heard from the angel, became wed to Joseph, and later on had little Yeshua. As he grows, and his brothers and sisters come along, Mary's life story continues. Her relationship with God was a blessing to me. I enjoyed imagining her feelings and how awed she was to be raising the Messiah and be his mother, as well as, the things that she witnessed happening later in his life. As you read you can feel her love, her struggles, and the emotions she must have felt.

Although, at times the story may have played out a bit different than what I personally would have imagined, I enjoyed the author's take. It was interesting to read the Jewish names and at time words were included that made the story more personal. I also, originally thought this to be a type of Christmas novel and was surprised to find that after just a few short chapters, that part of the book was over. The book actually spans the lifetime of Jesus. I also enjoyed the author's take on Jesus as a boy and how he was taken with insects, bugs, birds, and had a calming effect on those around him. There was definitely much thought put into the story.

I would recommend this book. I received a free copy through the Book Club Network and Whitaker House to review. All opinions are my own and I was not required to review it positively.

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### Nora St Laurent says

This was a familiar story I read with fresh eyes and came away with a stirred heart and a new appreciation and perspective of Mary and Joseph. I felt like I had met this couple for the very first time. This author sews in details of their culture and how things would have been back then for a young Jewish couple who was betrothed. She captures the youthfulness, innocence, and love these two had for the Lord and for each other.

I liked when Mary prayed. She usually started out, "Oh, God Who Sees Me" This really struck a chord with me. I started saying this in my prayers too. It brings things into perspective. Here is one of Mary's prayers.

"Oh, God Who Sees Me, she said silently. Grant me the courage to carry out your plan and to face my parents and Joseph. Give them grace to believe me. They must believe me. Strengthen me, and help me through these next few hours and days. I am your maiden, may your will be done." ..." please help me. I'm afraid of what lies ahead. I know your ways are beyond understanding, but I submit to your will. Show us the way. Go before us."

The author gives Mary's perspective about the trip to Nazareth for the census. Mary thinks of the baby's arrival, "...Then a thought struck her and she pursed her lips to keep from making a sound that would worry Joseph. What if there was no midwife? Who would help her? Would she birth this heavenly child by herself? Would Joseph have to help her? She blushed at the thought. What did a man know about birthing a child? She shuddered slightly as she fought down the fear that threatened to engulf her."

The author says this in author notes to readers, "...these were specific questions and speculations that I sought to answer in this book:

1. At such a young age, how did Mary get permission from her father to travel over one hundred and twenty miles to Juttah, where Elizabeth lived and how did she get there? It was five days from Nazareth to Jerusalem alone.

2. "Living in a small house, how would Mary hide from her mother the fact that her time of the month did not come? How could she explain the angel's visitation in a way her parents could believe? Was that her reason for immediate haste to get to Elizabeth's?

3. Who helped Mary with the birth? Angels? Joseph?

4. How would I show my readers that Mary and Joseph were a typical young Jewish family, living in a small village in the hills of Judea?

These are not the only aspects and questions the author answered in this book. I was glued to this novel that revealed the humanity of Mary, a 14-year-old girl facing unbelievable situations (like I hadn't read before), showed Joseph, faithful, hardworking man and Jesus the son of God who they'd be caring for. All of them became very real to me. I felt like I had the opportunity to walk along with Mary and Joseph in a unique way. This author had the gift of bringing a whole new dynamic way beyond the Christmas story. I liked the writing style of this author. I highly recommend this novel. It would make a great book club pick.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher and The Book Club Network site. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St. Laurent  
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The Book Club Network blog [www.psalm516.blogspot.com](http://www.psalm516.blogspot.com)  
Book Fun Magazine [www.bookfunmagazine.com](http://www.bookfunmagazine.com)

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### **Melba says**

I truly enjoyed this book. It was a wonderful perspective on the biblical account of Mary, and it didn't detract from it. I plan on reading more of this author's work, and I would recommend this book to all Christian readers.

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### **Deana Dick says**

I really love books that are fictionalization of bible stories. Sometimes they are just straight forward with no real descriptions or anything to help the reader to connect to the book. In this case, the author has done an outstanding job of retelling a very important story that completely captivated me. I saw the breads, the fruits and other delicious items on the table as Mary's family sat down to partake of a meal that came from God's provision. I loved how the author made me feel like I was sitting at the table listening to Mary talk to her parents. I envisioned a sweet soft voice as she spoke of her love for The Most High.

I was so impressed with the way the author told the story of Mary and how she made such beautiful descriptions of the time period and the feelings that Mary experienced when she realized she was carrying a special child. I imagine there was much talk and whispers about Mary when she became pregnant. I have read the story many times, seen movies about Mary and the birth of Christ. This time I felt the story deep in my soul as the author wrote with grace and compassion about the mother of Jesus. I loved how Mary continuously prayed for guidance and believed without question that her son was destined for greatness.

The author has given me a new author to read now that I have had the honor of reading her book. It is parallel to the story in the bible but adds real depth and brings the story to life with vivid details. The true unconditional love that Mary had for her son is written with emotions that brought tears to my eyes. I hope everyone will grab a copy of this book. It is a magnificent retelling of Mary and the son who would one day set us free.

"Therefore , let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Yeshua, whom you crucified , both Lord and Messiah."

I received a copy of this book from The BookClub Network for an honest review.

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### **Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says**

#### **MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK**

This is such an amazing story, I was in awe the entire time I was reading this book. Both Mary and Joseph were the sweetest young couple. Her parents loved her very much to make sure the man she would marry was the man she loved. I know this is fiction, but as I read the account of the angel coming to Mary in a dream, her trip to see her cousin Elizabeth, Mary telling her parents and Joseph she was pregnant with the Messiah, each and every scene was so fully detailed, I felt like I was living this story along with the characters. It is so neat to see this Bible account through the eyes of Diana W. Taylor.

It was so sweet to follow along with Mary as she realized she was carrying a special baby, that God has actually trusted her and favored her among all of the women of that time, and chose her to be the mother of Jesus. Despite what she had to go through, the outrage of her family and Joseph when she first told them she was pregnant with God's son, all of the talk and whispers among everyone she came in contact with, Mary still had a peace and calmness, and an excitement that God had favored her among women. Can you just imaging what that would feel like?

Ms. Taylor not only writes an wonderful story of Mary, the historical events and all of the details was amazing. It is so much in this story that I love, I could go on and on, but you have an idea what this book is about. And I agree with others that this book needs to be read before Christmas and before Easter. It is a great way to ready your heart for the Celebration of each of these holidays. If you have friends and family that love reading, and don't know the Lord, this would be the most amazing book for them to read. The Gospel is told throughout this book in a wonderful way. This is a must read for every Christian!

"I received this book from the author for free. A favorable review was not required and all views expressed in this review are my own."

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### **Marilyn says**

Mary: Chosen of God is a beautiful rendition of Jesus' mother and her life. I was immersed into the story and felt like I was present with Mary while she was walking the streets of Nazareth, preparing a meal, going to the temple, or traveling to see her cousin Elizabeth while viewing the countryside. This novel covers not only Mary's life but the lifespan of her beloved son, Yeshua (Jesus). I appreciated the use of Jewish words to bring the realism of the Biblical account to life. My emotions and mind seeing the scenes were captivated from the start. Each character is well developed and what may have transpired during history with the greatest story ever told. Mary lived an ordinary life with responsibilities of caring for Joseph and her children, but she pondered so much within her heart about her son, Jesus. It's hard to fathom the heartbreak and pain she felt as Yeshua hung on the cross to become the Savior of the world. I enjoyed Biblical fiction when an author incorporates the Word of God and does not stray from the Bible. This is the first book I've read by Diana Wallis Taylor, but it will not be my last one.

Thank you to Whitaker House for the complimentary copy of this astonishing book. A positive review was not required but I have expressed my honest thoughts of this 5 star book by Diana Wallis Taylor.

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### **Debbie says**

I am going to start this review by saying that Diana Wallis Taylor was a new author to me before reading "Mary, Chosen Of God" but I have now added her other seven novels and her book on Halloween to my to be read list. I felt like I was traveling Mary's journey with her.

"Mary, Chosen Of God" by Diana Wallis is Christian fiction at it's best. It really tells the Biblical account of Mary, the mother of Yeshua,( Jesus). The novel starts when Mary is dreaming about the man she wants to marry who is Joseph. It tells of Joseph asking her father's permission to marry her. All is well and her and Joseph are engaged and then one night as she is praying an angel tells her she is going to have a baby and He is the Son Of God. Ok, most of us know the story, so I will stop there and tell you how the book made this reader feel.

I feel after reading this book I have a better understanding of the struggle that Mary must have gone through knowing that others in her town thought she had sinned. And then to wonder when she could let others know who He really was and when he was gonna to fulfill His purpose and save His people. I felt the pain she must have felt when her other children turned against Yeshua and refused to believe in Him. And to worry that He could be arrested and then to have watched him be murdered. I encourage everyone to read this book every Christmas and Easter and every time they need a reminder of what Mary and Joseph and Yeshua went through for us.

I was given a complementary copy of "Mary, Chosen Of God" by Celebrate Lit and the author. These opinions are my own. This is definitely a five star novel.

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### **Melissa says**

How can you breathe fresh life into a story you know so well? Well, Diana has managed to do just that. Even though I knew what would happen in this story I couldn't wait to read and see how Diana would spin it and bring it to life. I really enjoyed her take.

So many times we think, oh, how sweet, Mary was pregnant with the Son of God. We forget about the shame and judgement that followed her because of what people didn't know. She had this wonderful news yet who would believe her?

And then how would she feel when this child went to the cross? Definitely gives you a great perspective in this book and brings familiar story, new life.

Biblical fiction readers will love this, or anyone who loves the story of Jesus!!

A copy of this book was given to me through The Book Club Network, Inc. in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Andi says**

Biblical fiction is another one of my favorite genre's. I've read most of Diana's books, I found Mary, Chosen of God on Goodreads, a friend was reading it and I thought it was a perfect read for Christmas and I was right! Diana takes you right into the heart of Mary, the words from Luke 2:19, Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart, become alive and real. I've always been amazed at Mary's faith in God as she walked through her pregnancy of Jesus, raising him, watching him begin his ministry and then seeing her child die a criminal's death. In this book we not only watch Mary as Jesus grows, we see how his siblings handle having him as their brother, and the struggle with unbelief.

I loved this book and it will become a book I will read at Christmas each year. Highly recommended!

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### **Ann Manning says**

#### **A wonderful experience !**

The incredibly beautiful and devotional telling of the life of Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ by Diana Wallis Taylor is so well done that I was blessed to be able to read and experience again the amazing story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was done with love and with much research on the biblical scripture and life of Mary and Joseph . I highly recommend this book to read!

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### **Carole Jarvis says**

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/2daG6Nk>

In Mary, Chosen of God, Diana Wallis Taylor takes us from Mary and Joseph's courtship days through Pentecost, breathing life into a familiar and beloved story. This is really a factual account that conveys the humanity of Mary, and I found the narrative informative and very touching in several places. It's not a fast-

paced or deep read, but one that made me think.

I especially enjoyed the historical detail as Diana writes about the Jewish culture and lifestyle – festivals, traditions, travel, food, etc. Her writing is easy to follow and pulls you into the setting. I also found the Scriptural accuracy impressive ... that rather than being a prostitute, Mary Magdalene was a woman who had been freed from seven demons; the believers on Pentecost speaking in actual languages foreign to them; James, the brother of Jesus, becoming a believer and church leader; and the apostles baptizing new followers in the cleansing pools of Jerusalem.

But the focus is on Mary, and I've got to say that I love the cover. It reflects Mary's vulnerability and I can't get it out of my mind. The narrative made me realize again how simple, yet strong, Mary's faith was ... her familiarity and intimacy with God, reflected in the salutation of her prayers, Oh God Who Sees Me ... her knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures, leading to a trust in God's plan and protection ... the importance she placed on obedience. Oh, to be more like Mary!

It was interesting to follow Mary's thoughts over the years as the full meaning of the angel's announcement became clear, beginning with the old man's words in the Temple: "You will feel the pain of a sword thrust through you..."

I enjoyed *Mary, Chosen of God* overall and am glad I had the opportunity to read it. Recommended.

I received this book free of charge from Celebrate Lit.

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### **Kimberly says**

I enjoy historical fiction. This began when I started reading fictionalized biblical stories. This book fits in with the latter category. In "Mary, Chosen of God" the author was able to do a great job of telling this story. She was able to make her descriptions come to life in a way that I felt like I could reach out and touch the items she talked about, or hear the conversations taking place.

This is a beloved story that I feel was well represented with this book. The author did a wonderful job, which was a wonderful surprise. I hadn't read anything by this author before but I will keep my eyes out for her works in the future.

I was given this book by bookfun.org and Whitaker House in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Kristine Morgan says**

I really enjoyed reading *Mary: Chosen Of God* by Diana Wallis Taylor. Ms. Wallace's version of Mary's life is Biblically accurate but adds fascinating tidbits of what Mary's life may have been like. She has obviously done her research and sprinkles local customs and menus that Mary and her family may have eaten. She makes Mary and Joseph come alive with how they may have felt being the Earthly parents of the Son of God. This is a book everyone should read.

I was given this book through the celebrate Lit Blog with no expectations. All opinions are my own.

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### **Barbara says**

The cover of this book is beautiful, and so is the story inside. Diana Wallis Taylor does an excellent job of staying true to Scripture, yet filling in gaps to let the reader experience what Mary and her family might have gone through. It covers Mary's life from the time the Angel visited her to the beginning of the church after Jesus' ascension. Hebrew prayers, customs, and holidays are skillfully woven into the story-line without overwhelming it. I found myself fascinated by their traditions and worship. You do not have to be a fan of Biblical fiction to enjoy this book.

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### **Lynda Edwards says**

Biblical fiction is one genre I don't typically read; perhaps it is that the culture is so far removed from today, or that I sometimes have trouble relating to the situations or even people. But as Christmas is rapidly approaching, the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one that I found I wanted to understand better. This book did help enhance my appreciation for the Christmas story, and even the rest of Jesus' earthly life as seen through His mother's eyes. I am actually amazed at both the depth and the wide scope that Diana Wallis Taylor encompasses in her fictionalized account.

There really isn't a whole lot to go on when considering Mary—but the author does a fantastic job of filling in the holes and adding flesh and bones to the Biblical person. Anywhere she takes license is done with an intent of honoring what we find in the Bible yet making it more relatable to the reader. She gives great detail on the festivals and food preparation but doesn't overwhelm the larger story; it is helpful in understanding some of the unfamiliar Jewish customs and brings deeper meaning and insight to my own faith and why some traditions are practiced in certain ways.

My favorite part of this book is the humanizing effect it has on Mary; I know she was a woman, special because God made her so, but to see her grapple with the idea of having a baby and what others would think as it happened before her wedding, to read about her difficulties as she raised this very special child, and her struggles in watching the world mistreat and abuse her son, knowing He is God's Son, made her more sympathetic. I am fascinated by the woman God chose to bear Messiah; her faith and trust are humbling.

Perhaps it is because I am also a mother, but my heart broke in various points, empathizing with the very difficult path she had to trod as Jesus' mother. She is described as cognizant of His special purpose, close in her relationship with God, but any mother's heart would break as she endured the pain of her oldest child, even realizing He was no ordinary child.

This is an excellent book for those of us who may not have a deep understanding of the time in which Jesus walked the earth in a physical body. I would recommend it for those who enjoy Biblical fiction, but also those who would like to maybe understand an important Biblical person a little better. While this is a work of fiction, I believe the author is very respectful of the Biblical text and has sought to honor God with her writing—there is no hesitation on my part to suggest this as an excellent book that will help readers draw closer to God even as it entertains. Especially as we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth, a new perspective on the event is both welcome and refreshing, refocusing me on the true miracle of God With Us.

I received a free copy of this book through Celebrate Lit but no compensation for this review. I was not required to write a favorable one and the opinions expressed are both honest and my own.

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