“Lamb” by Christopher Moore — A Witty Pilgrimage

Playful, irreverent, and oddly tender: Lamb retells Jesus’ early years through the eyes of Biff, his best friend. This card introduces the novel's hybrid of historical fantasy and broad comedy — perfect for readers who like their theology with a wink.

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Author bio



About Christopher Moore



Background

Former advertising copywriter turned novelist, Moore built a cult following with offbeat comedic fantasies that mix the mundane and the mythic.



Notable Works

Known for Lamb, Practical Demonkeeping, and The Stupidest Angel — each blends satire with heartfelt moments.



Voice

His comic timing and irreverence aim to humanize big ideas without preaching — a tricky balance he often nails.

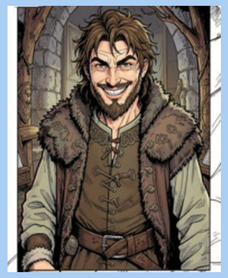
Book Snapshot

Title: Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal. Genre: Humorous historical fiction, satirical reimagining. Published: 2002. Premise: Biff recounts Jesus’ lost years, pairing slapstick adventures with surprisingly sincere reflections on faith.

What Lamb Is About

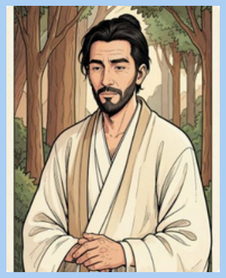
Biff (Cheeta/Biff) narrates the untold adventures that shaped Joshua — from childhood pranks to a globe-trotting apprenticeship. The novel weaves madcap escapades with tender scenes, filling the gaps between canonical moments with imaginative humanity.

Main Characters



Biff

Roguish, loyal, and candid — Biff narrates with wit and affection, driving the book's irreverent charm.



Joshua (Jesus)

Portrayed as both divine and deeply human; Moore lets Joshua's curiosity and kindness anchor the satire.



Mary Magdalene

Complex, sharp, and loyal — she’s more than a trope, integral to the emotional core of the story.

Major Themes

Friendship & Loyalty

Biff and Joshua's bond is the book's heart—funny, flawed, steadfast.

Faith & Humanity

Explores belief through doubt and everyday moments, making theology feel lived-in.

Satire & Compassion

Comedy punches up at institutions but lands gently on individuals.

Curiosity & Growth

A pilgrimage of discovery: physical journeys mirror inner change.

Writing Style & Storytelling

Moore mixes flat-out jokes with lyrical, sincere passages. The first-person narration is chatty and candid, shifting from bawdy set-pieces to moments of genuine poignancy — a tonal seesaw that mostly lands delightfully.



Review — Why It Works

- Inventive premise: fills "lost years" imaginatively.
- Memorable characters: warm, flawed, and funny.
- Emotional balance: satire layered with sincere payoff.

Limitations: irreverence may unsettle devout readers; comedic tone isn’t for every palate.

Who Should Read It

Ideal for fans of satirical historical fiction, readers who enjoy mixing laughter with philosophical questions, and anyone curious about unconventional retellings of sacred stories. Not recommended for those seeking strictly reverent biography.



Final Verdict & Explore More

Bright, bawdy, and unexpectedly moving — Lamb is a satisfyingly irreverent ride that rewards readers who want humor with heart. For more thoughtful reviews and reading picks, visit TotalRead.

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