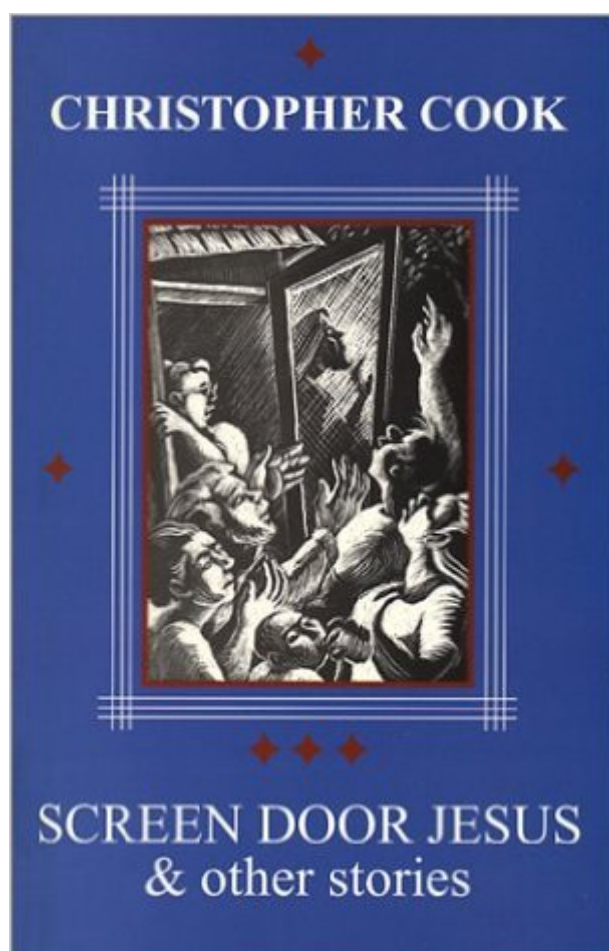


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Screen Door Jesus & Other Poems



Synopsis

Fiction. Christopher Cook vividly paints a portrait of small town America in his humorous and often irreverent collection of ten short stories, "Screen Door Jesus". The title story considers the chaos that ensues in Bethlehem, Texas when an image of Jesus appears on Mother Harper's screen door. "And I Beheld Another Beast" features Vernalynn threatening to shoot down a television antenna she insists is sinful. In "Serpent", a woman transforms into a snake for committing a mysterious sin.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #919,648 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories #12015 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories #29432 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary

Customer Reviews

Christopher Cook may set his stories in a particular region of the country (East Texas, where he was born) but he's a lot more than a regional writer. For one thing, he lives in Europe. These stories really deal with universal human experiences, and they are powerful. They just happen to be expressed (sometimes tragically, sometimes hilariously) through the framework of the Southern fundamentalist culture. Just take a look at this review, which I picked up off the Dallas Morning News web site and agree with 100 percent: The Dallas Morning News Book Section January 6, 2002 "Christopher Cook slyly examines religious factions and fractions" By Bryan Woolley/ The Dallas Morning News Early in the title story of Christopher Cook's new collection, the narrator - a 13-year-old Houston boy exiled to his grandparents' house in a small Southeast Texas town for the summer - describes his new cultural environment: "Mostly what they did was religion. A church on every block. Soon as one built up to a hundred members they'd fall into a fight, as if there was some critical mass beyond which people couldn't get along, and they'd form two new churches, like

molecular division. Such disputes were said to be doctrinal. But Grandpa observed that if you peeled away that notion and looked underneath, what you'd find was a clash of personalities and American democracy in action."All 10 stories in Mr. Cook's book are set in Bethlehem, a fictional burg in the steamy swamps and forests northeast of Houston. (In his magnificent thriller, "Robbers", published last year, a Texas Ranger pursues two serial killers through this same country.) In all the stories, the people of Bethlehem are "doing religion."

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