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The silver chalice book value

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The Silver Chalice novel vividly depicts early Christianity's fervor through its tale of Basil of Antioch. As an artisan sensitive to his craft, Basil is freed from slavery to create the Chalice's ornate casing, said to have held Jesus' Last Supper vessel. His journey takes him to Jerusalem, Greece, and Rome, where he encounters the apostles, faces persecution, and ultimately makes a pivotal choice that allows him to glimpse Jesus. This compelling narrative, combined with its characters' depth and spiritual themes, contributed significantly to The Silver Chalice being one of the most popular historical novels of the twentieth century. Harry Stillwell Edwards Costain was born in Brantford, Ontario, where his father, John Herbert Costain, and mother, Mary Schultz, raised him. His high school education was at the Brantford Collegiate Institute, a notable educational institution in the area. Before completing high school, he had already written four novels, including one substantial romance novel about Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange, which exceeded 70,000 words. These early works were initially rejected by publishers. His first writing success occurred in 1902 when his mystery story was accepted by The Brantford Courier; subsequently, he became a reporter for the newspaper, earning five dollars per week. Edwards Costain served as an editor at The Guelph Daily Mercury from 1908 to 1910 and married Ida Randolph Spragge on January 12, 1910. They had two children together, Molly (Mrs. Howard Haycraft) and Dora (Mrs. Henry Darlington Steinmetz), also in 1910. That same year, Edwards Costain joined The Maclean Publishing Group as an editor of trade journals. Starting in 1914, he worked as a staff writer for Toronto-based Maclean's magazine; from 1917 onwards, he took on the role of its editor. This position brought him to the attention of The Saturday Evening Post, where he served as fiction editor for fourteen years. In 1920, he became a naturalized U.S. citizen. Edwards Costain worked at Doubleday Books as an editor from 1939 to 1946 and headed 20th Century Fox's literary department (story department) from 1934 to 1942. He also wrote four short novels in 1940 but did not release them due to his experience as an editor. Instead, he planned a series called "The Stepchildren of History," focusing on six lesser-known historical figures; the first was John Ward, also known as Jack Ward, a seventeenth-century pirate. Edwards Costain's dream finally came true in 1942 when For My Great Folly was published and became an instant bestseller with over 132,000 copies sold. The novel left no romantic-adventure lover unsatisfied, according to a reviewer from The New York Times. In January 1946, Edwards Costain "retired" to devote his life to writing at a pace of approximately 3,000 words per day. Initially raised as a Baptist, he later affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church, as reported in Current Biography (1953). He was described as a tall, broad-shouldered man with a distinctive Canadian accent, clear blue eyes, and white hair when he began writing novels. Edwards Costain had a strong affection for animals but could not even kill an insect; on the other hand, he enjoyed playing bridge. Thomas Costain's work is a blend of commercial history and fiction, often relying heavily on historical events. His most popular novel, The Black Rose (1945), is centered around Bayan of the Baarin, set in the time period of Edward I. Costain initially intended to focus on Bayan, but became captivated by the legend of Thomas a Becket's parents instead. Costain researched Richard III, suggesting that he was a great monarch who fell victim to conspiracies after his death. He documented evidence to support this theory, proposing that Henry VII was the real murderer of the princes in the tower. Costain passed away in 1965 at age 80, leaving behind a legacy of 650,000 copies printed and over two million sold in its first year. The Black Rose has received positive reviews for its engaging storyline, reminiscent of Ben-Hur, which explores themes of survival, talent, and redemption amidst historical settings. Basil's journey begins with discovery, and I embarked on this adventure with no expectations. It quickly became an immersive experience. The story transports us to New Testament times, where events from the Bible's Book of Acts unfold in the background. Basil, a talented young artisan, is adopted by a wealthy businessman but later sold into slavery. He's purchased by Luke the Physician and brought to meet Joseph of Arimathea. The elderly church leaders commission Basil to create a silver chalice featuring Jesus' closest followers' likenesses. This task takes him on a perilous journey across Antioch, Jerusalem, Ephesus, and Rome, as he must evade those who want to stop his work. Basil is an endearing protagonist, and I found myself rooting for him. His exceptional talent becomes both a blessing and a curse, making him a pawn in the hands of others. As he navigates his time period, various individuals manipulate his destiny, leaving Basil with little control over his life. The story explores how people can exert significant influence over one's life, often without being aware of it. The narrative is filled with memorable supporting characters. I enjoyed Luke's role as a writer who brings depth to the story. Paul and John make appearances, with Paul coming across as bold and authoritative. Peter's encounter with Basil is particularly noteworthy. The cunning villain, Simon the Sorcerer, attempts to undermine Jesus' miracles, while Basil's love triangle adds a romantic layer to the story. Two women, Deborra and Helena, vie for his attention, leaving readers wondering which path his heart will take. The story revolves around Basil's struggle to perfect the chalice, which he fears will be hindered by his own bitter and vengeful state of mind. I appreciate how the characters draw inspiration from biblical stories as living precedents for decision-making, a refreshing approach in today's era. The novel's success is impressive, considering it was a Christian fiction bestseller on secular charts in the mid-twentieth century. It's fascinating to note that the bestselling non-fiction book of that year was the Revised Standard edition of the Bible. I'm intrigued by Costain's historical fiction and want to learn more about his other works. Although he had a significant following during his prime, this is my first time encountering him. The story centers around Basil, a young boy who becomes an apprentice to a silversmith after being sold into slavery. Basil has a natural talent for art that remains untapped due to his apprenticeship. Joseph of Arimathea, the wealthy supporter of Christians since Jesus' death, discovers Basil's talent and sends Luke the Apostle to find him. Joseph wants Basil to create a beautiful silver mount with likenesses of important apostles and disciples around it, featuring the Holy Cup from the Last Supper. Basil faces the daunting task of capturing likenesses of the surviving apostles, including Peter, Luke, Paul, and Joseph himself, but the most challenging one will be Jesus. The story follows Basil's long and mentally taxing journey as he strives to complete the masterpiece within the given time frame. Given text: in 1952 and set in the first century chronicling the rise and spread of the Christian faith. In order to tell a more authentic story, Costain uses real characters such as Joseph of Arimathea, Luke, Peter and other Apostles as well as Nero. Basil, the main character, is legally adopted into a wealthy family but when the father dies, his position is usurped by his uncle and he is sold into slavery. Luke finds him as he is a prodigy sculptor and buys him out of slavery giving him status once again as a free man. Luke had been searching on behalf of Joseph of Arimathea who old and feeble as he is, is intent on securing the best and most talented artisan to design a chalice which will be made to fit the cup used by Jesus at The Last Supper". Joseph has safeguarded the cup over the years as the Zealots are intent on destroying any remnants of Jesus and eradicating the entire Christian faith. Basil goes through many trials and tribulations on his journey both to restore his good name and to find those central to the rise of Christianity in order to mold them and include their image for "the Silver Chalice". Enjoyed this read despite some minor discrepancies that required suspension of disbelief at times. The book provided an engaging account of early Christian history, particularly through Luke's character, and offered valuable insights into Christian philosophy. Basil's transformation and ultimate connection with Jesus were compelling aspects of the story. While the book was detailed, it proved thought-provoking and well-written. I am looking for another good historical fiction novel that explores similar themes of growth and redemption. Recently re-read an old favorite, "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak, which shares some similarities with the classic novel I am trying to find. The new book should be engaging, well-written, and convey meaningful messages about faith, identity, and human relationships. Apparently, people pray to angels instead of God in this book, which also contains historical inaccuracies. I wish I had invested my time elsewhere. The edition I read had a fun mix-up with the publication date - it said 1592 instead of 1952. This Christian classic fiction was released on October 8, 2022. I don't mind long books if there's a reason for them, but this one felt unnecessary and could've been summarized in just a couple of paragraphs. The author needed an editor to trim some pages, as the story didn't have much depth. The main character, Basil, could've had more growth, and there were too many side characters who added nothing to the plot. In terms of Christian fiction, I felt that the dealings with the chalice bordered on idolatry, and some events seemed more mystic than Christian. The addition of Peter, John, Paul, and Luke felt excessive. This book is based on actual events and explores early Christianity through the story of a young man named Basil. He starts out as an orphan who gets adopted by a wealthy merchant in Antioch but later becomes a slave due to his brother's manipulation. As a skilled artisan, Basil learns sculpting and eventually becomes renowned for his work. His talent even catches the attention of the apostles, leading him on a journey that takes him through Jerusalem, Greece, and Rome. The narrative centers around Basil's quest to create a special frame for the cup used by Jesus during the Last Supper, while also dealing with the challenges he faces due to persecution, that allows him to "see" Jesus to complete the chalice. September 3, 2013The Silver Chalice by Thomas B. Costain. I have a vague memory of watching the movie adaptation on TV. Now that I've read the book, I plan on checking out the movie again from the library. The novel reminds us of what early Christian followers went through after Jesus' death. We often take our freedom for granted without realizing how many people suffered to achieve it. June 18, 2010My partner and I stumbled upon this author while exploring a used book sale. His works are out-of-print now, but they're still enjoyable reads! I love historical fiction, especially when it's rich in descriptions and storytelling. October 26, 2010I've read this book multiple times and recently re-read it after finding it in an old pile of books. I enjoy historical fiction and stories about the early Christian Church are fascinating. December 15, 2017I first read this book as a child around age 10. It was one of the Catholic books my stepmother didn't get rid of when we moved in with her. The story is a mix of Christian ethic, C.S. Lewis-style historical fiction, and proselytizing about the Holy Grail. The novel follows Basil, a poor but talented sculptor who's adopted by a wealthy man. Through manipulation, he's sold into slavery and spends years seeking justice. He meets rich and forgiving Christians along the way, including one pure and beautiful "Go Jesus" waif. All the Christian characters are tortured by those around them, while their doubts and flaws are less pronounced than those of non-Christian characters. The story centers on Basil creating a frame for the famous silver chalice used by Jesus at the Last Supper. The cup is hidden for years before being rediscovered and gaudily decorated, much like the book's portrayal of Christianity. Basil struggles to imagine Jesus as he works on the frame, amidst the apostles' dying and the pursuit of capturing their image. Many elements of good storytelling are present in this novel, but they get lost due to... The book is a long and thick one, filled with tedious details and preachy tone. It's possible that the author, Costain, was more concerned with conveying his message about conversion than telling an engaging story. The novel also contains questionable theological ethics and outdated sexism, which may have been acceptable in the 1950s but are now jarring to modern readers. I gave up halfway through, not because it was bad, but because it wasn't compelling or well-written enough to keep me interested. The main problem is Costain's over-the-top writing style, which uses too many words and favors a pompous tone. The characters' dialogue is especially cringe-worthy, with lines like "Oh, Cassius! Behold the words I say to you this day..." Despite its flaws, The Silver Chalice is an interesting look at what made a bestseller in the early 1950s. It's a tale of starry-eyed Christian devotion, good vs evil characters, and historical escapism that likely resonated with readers in the post-war years. A more positive review describes it as a "wonderfully uplifting classic tale" about Basil, a young artist tasked with sculpting a silver chalice to hold the cup of the Last Supper. The book is set in the early Christian Church and features cameos from biblical characters like Paul, Simon Peter, and Luke. The Silver Chalice is a historical novel that explores the making of the "Silver Chalice" or "Holy Grail." It includes both biblical and historical figures, with a time period shortly after Jesus' death. This book is about a young man named Basil who was once rich but was sold into slavery by an evil uncle. Later, Basil becomes a silversmith to make the casing for Jesus' cup at The Last Supper. The story is one of survival, faith, hope, and renewal, showing how Basil overcomes his struggles. The Silver Chalice, a historical novel by Thomas B. Costain, is an inspiring story about the cup used by Christ at the Last Supper. The book takes readers on a journey through the colorful and passionate world of early Christianity, following the life of Basil, a sensitive artisan who is purchased from slavery and commissioned to create a decorative casing for the Chalice. The Silver Chalice by Thomas B. Costain is a first edition published in 1952 by Doubleday & Company. It features a blue hardcover cloth volume with silver lettering on the spine and a dustjacket showing signs of wear. The book has 503 pages and measures 8vo, consisting of 750 copies. This particular copy is No. 470 of the total edition and presents a very good condition, with some minor fading due to age. The book's binding is cloth, with ink gift inscription on the front free endpaper. It includes colour-illustrated paste-downs and green top edges. The slipcase has sunning and splitting along the joints. A Canadian-American journalist and novelist, Thomas B. Costain wrote a fictional account of making a silver chalice to hold the Holy Grail. This novel was a top best-selling title in the United States in 1953. The book is now owned by Ex-Libris Denis J. Chretien, with handwritten ownership on the front paste-down and an embossed stamp on the title.