

# Review: The Lost Diary of Mary Magdalene

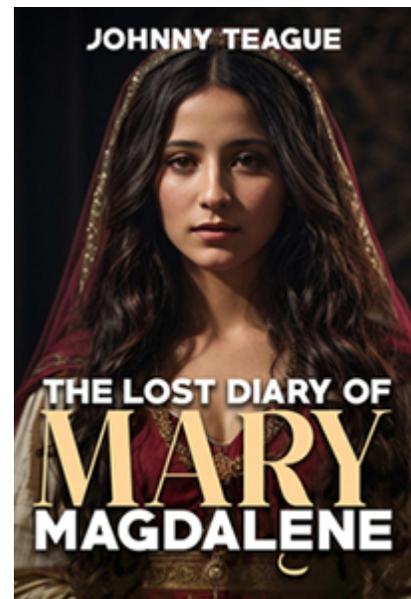
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## *The Lost Diary of Mary Magdalene*

**By Johnny Teague (Histrion Books)**

The foreman on an archaeological dig near the Sea of Galilee discovers a clay pot interesting enough to take back to his room and carefully open. What he finds inside leads him to weeks of translation. This is no Gnostic gospel. These are the brittle parchment pages of a diary, the notes and recollections of a woman profoundly changed by Jesus—Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene is depicted early in the story as a licentious and demon-possessed daughter of a tax collector. Her life before Jesus freed her of demons is difficult to read. Mercifully, her emancipation happens early in the story.



The largest portion of the story follows Mary's life-changing encounter with Jesus. She reports witnessing firsthand and hearing secondhand about Jesus' teaching and miracles and processes all of it with what she knows about Israel's messianic tradition. This is where the story really comes

alive.

Johnny Teague humanizes what for many has become little more than the religious text of the Gospels. He contextualizes the text of the Gospels in a way that makes it even more relatable to everyday human experience by describing how a contemporary of Jesus was experiencing his ministry throughout her own life.

As is the case with historical fiction, readers must remember this is a fictional account of actual history. Teague is careful to explain in an epilogue that what he has written is not Scripture. And there is a considerable amount of Scripture seamlessly woven into this fictional diary.

Teague also presents readers with theological considerations worthy of further study beyond the book. These arise as natural implications of various conversations and Mary's thoughts. Readers do well to remember such theological points are Teague's perspective and not necessarily gospel.

Teague tells the story with infectious joy, marvel and wonder. He imagines Mary navigating the implications of forgiveness and new life given to her by a person she comes to believe is the long-awaited Messiah—Jesus.

*Eric Black, executive director/publisher/editor  
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