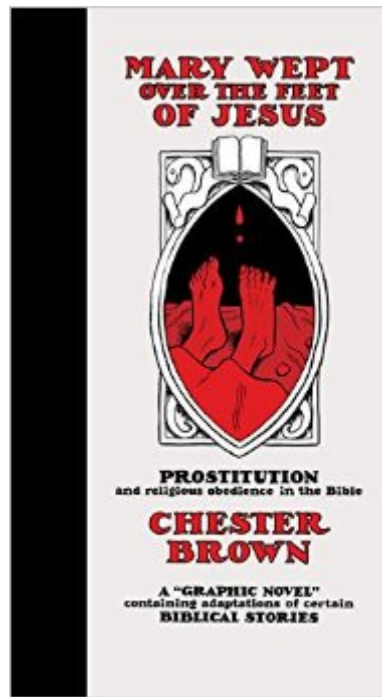


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Mary Wept Over The Feet Of Jesus



Synopsis

The idiosyncratic master Chester Brown continues his thoughts on sex work. The Bible is Chester Brown's holy harlot. He plumbs the mysteries of her depths while she schools him in the ways of love. Like all of Chester's work, *Mary Wept Over the Feet of Jesus* is confounding, yet addictive, instantly re-readable, and expands with revelations in his hundred pages of notes. A work of passion, research, and elegant clarity. My new favourite.

•Craig Thompson, author of *Blankets* and *Habibi*

•Chester Brown is both God's and the devil's gift to the world.

•David Henry Sterry, author of *Hos, Hookers, Call Girls* and *Rent Boys*

•Chester's work never fails to surprise and delight me. Since I always enjoy mythic and legendary tales of harlots, I knew I would like *Mary Wept Over the Feet of Jesus*, but I was pleased and impressed by the way he used all these stories to illustrate a larger theme about humanity's relationship to Divinity and the role my profession plays in that relationship. Chester shows that spirituality and sexuality, which are so often depicted in our culture as opposed to one another, are actually deeply intertwined.

•Maggie McNeill, author of *The Honest Courtesan*

The iconoclastic and bestselling cartoonist of *Paying for It: A comic-strip memoir about being a john* and Louis Riel returns and with a polemical interpretation of the Bible that will be one of the most controversial and talked-about graphic novels of 2016. *Mary Wept Over the Feet of Jesus* is the retelling in comics form of nine biblical stories that present Chester Brown's fascinating and startling thesis about biblical representations of prostitution. Brown weaves a connecting line between Bathsheba, Ruth, Rahab, Tamar, Mary of Bethany, and the Virgin Mother. He reassesses the Christian moral code by examining the cultural implications of the Bible's representations of sex work. *Mary Wept Over the Feet of Jesus* is a fitting follow-up to Brown's sui generis graphic memoir *Paying for It*, which was reviewed twice in *The New York Times* and hailed by sex workers for Brown's advocacy for the decriminalization and normalization of prostitution. Brown approaches the Bible as he did the life of Louis Riel, making these stories compellingly readable and utterly pertinent to a modern audience. In classic Chester Brown fashion, he provides extensive handwritten endnotes that delve into the biblical lore that informs *Mary Wept Over the Feet of Jesus*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am conflicted about this review. I love Chester Brown's cartooning style and appreciate that he brings social issues worth thinking about into his work. On that level I really liked this book. There are reasons, however for giving it a lower rating. This "book" is really a series of very short mini-comics padded together as a book, so I feel there is a bit of a marketing ploy going on. It is not just the size (four panels to a page to bulk up page count and 1/2 the book being notes) but the lack of any overall narrative. There are a number of stories of a few pages none of which hold together. The point of the stories is only apparent from the notes and I feel this is a failure in his cartooning...cartoons/comics should speak for themselves, not have to be explained by 100 pages of notes. Reading the notes one learns that Chester has modified the stories and parables in the bible to fit his interpretation and the interpretation of fringe scholarship. Where there are gapping questions he leaves them unanswered. For instance, his main premise is that the word "feet" is a euphemism for "pen@s" and so Mary's washing Jesus' feet was a sexual act, so prostitution was a sacred rite. Let's say the euphemism is correct, it doesn't follow that every reference to feet in the bible is a euphemism. He doesn't comment on why he thinks in context he must be correct about this. Second, he says Paul made prostitution a moral issue and perverted the whole view of prostitution.

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