



Volume 62 | Issue 2

Article 17

12-1-2019

Lliteras' "Descent" (book review)

Cynthia Hammell

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

Recommended Citation

Hammell, Cynthia (2019) "Lliteras' "Descent" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 62: Iss. 2, Article 17.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.2126>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Christian Librarian* by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

Book Reviews



Llitas, D. S. (2019). *Descent*. Faber, VA: Rainbow Ridge Books. 216 pp. \$16.95. ISBN 9781937907587

D. S. Llitas has written several novels set during the time of the New Testament, which could be why *Descent* seemed to start in the middle of the action. Jeshua (distinct from Jesus), a Hebrew man, has survived a near-fatal attack by a Roman Legionnaire. Jeshua knows how to use herbs and natural remedies to heal, but mostly looks out for himself. Roman Sargent, Flaccus has killed his brutal commander, which prevented Jeshua's death. They meet on the run and join a band of disciples who are travelling to Jerusalem at the command of the risen Jesus, to go there, pray and wait for the Holy Spirit. Jeshua is intrigued by Mary Magdalene, one of the group's leaders for worldly reasons, but seems unable to believe the story of their risen Lord. Flaccus, a gentile, is hungry for the truth and wants to know and experience God.

There is one statement that Mary Magdalene makes in the story, which seems problematic from an orthodox Christian theological perspective. "Tears came to her eyes. 'He was not only our savior, he showed us that we could be our own savior if we realized our wholeness with him-with God.'" (p. 91) Jesus gives us new life and it does require faith on our part, but scripture doesn't say, "we can be our own savior." It is true that the early disciples were sometimes confused. However, my caution, especially with a work of fiction set in biblical times, is that the reader needs to be aware of what scripture does say. Otherwise I found this to be a quick and interesting read. It may be suitable for some fiction collections especially in public libraries.

Reviewer

Cynthia Hammell