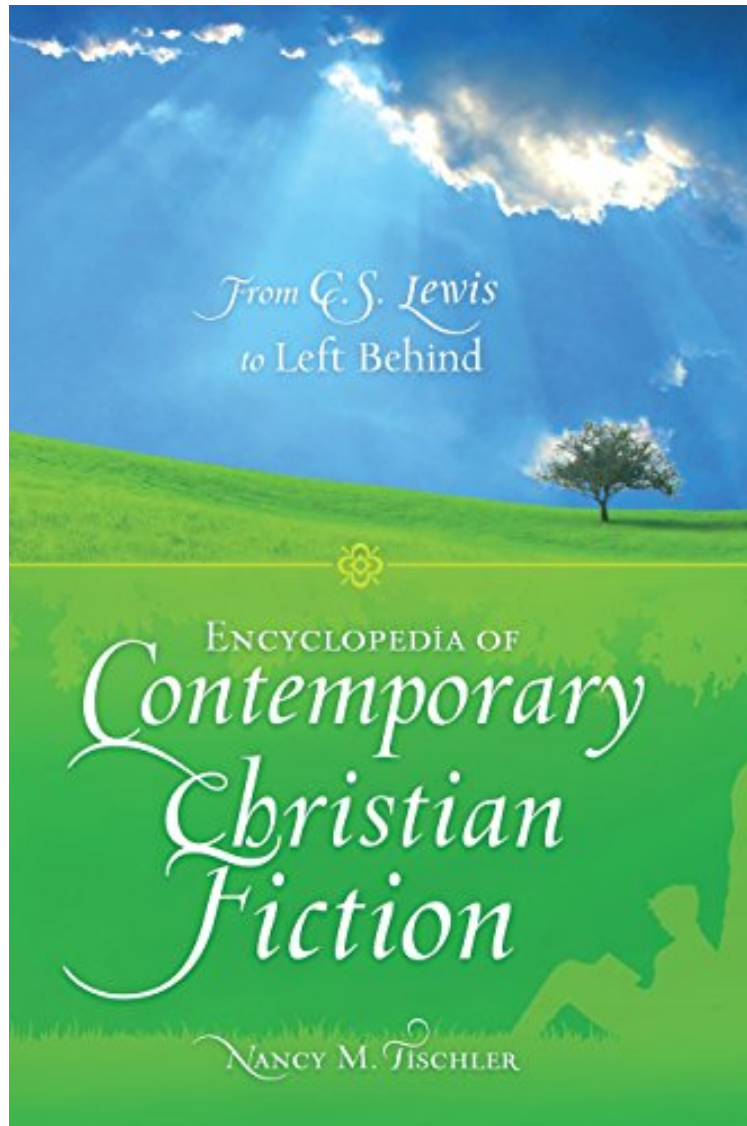


Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction: From C.S. Lewis to Left Behind

Nancy M. Tischler

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A biographical encyclopedia of American and British Christian-themed writers from World War II to the present, covering acclaimed literary works and popular evangelical fiction. Includes 90 alphabetically arranged entries on English and American authors of Christian-themed novels from World War II to the present Provides an introductory essay on the history and scope of contemporary Christian fiction Offers a bibliography of works by and about each author in each entry, plus a reference-wide bibliography Includes a complete index of authors and titles

From Booklist The increasing popularity of Christian fiction may well have to do with its enormous range, from kitsch to the critically acclaimed mainstream fiction of the likes of Margaret Atwood and Wendell Berry. This encyclopedia presents informed essays on close to 100 of the American, Canadian, and British writers whose works have significant Christian themes. To be included, authors must have written in the last 60 years and must maintain a Christian worldview. Although the author defines this worldview in light of six assumptions about God and Jesus, she mentions that a number of the writers profiled reject one or more of the assumptions. The AZ entries are well organized, interestingly written, and easily accessible to readers from the high-school level up. Each entry includes background material on the writer; a discussion of major works, themes, and ideas; the critical response; major awards won by the writer; a bibliography of novels by the author; and a bibliography of works about the author. The entries themselves are clear and objective, outlining the authors lives and influences in a straightforward manner. The treatment of critical reception is absolutely unflinching if a body of work has been criticized as poorly written, didactic, or characterized by anti-Semitism or anti-Catholicism, the entry so notes. A selected bibliography of works on Christian fiction and an excellent index complete a sound treatment of a genre that continues to garner readers. Covering a wider cross section temporally than *Christian Fiction: A Guide to the Genre*, by John Mort (2002), which looks primarily at works written from the early 1990s on, *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction* is a good addition to public library collections and those of university libraries with strong creative-writing programs. --Ann Welton "In selecting Christian fiction titles for a library (church, school, public, seminary) or even a home collection, one recently published (September 2009) tool should definitely be considered. *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Fiction: From C.S. Lewis to Left Behind* by Nancy M. Tischler fits the bill as a book selection tool. This title is the first of its kind to cover fictional works by both American and British authors, whose novels with Christian themes have been published since World War II to the present. . . . this guide will be an excellent springboard for not only thoughtful discussion and debate, but will give readers a glimpse into why certain authors write what they write and the way they write." - *Christian Books Examiner* "Tischler provides fresh and informative guidance to those readers seeking to explore questions of Christianity, religiosity and personal faith in modern novels. Her guide is highly suitable for academic, church and public libraries." - *Lawrence Looks at Books* "This book is highly recommended to public and academic libraries with a Christian literature section." - *ARBAonline*". . . a good addition to public library collections and those of university libraries with strong creative-writing programs." - *Booklist* "Tischler (emerita English and humanities, Pennsylvania State U.-University Park) offers a quick reference for readers of novels to information on a contemporary Cristian writer's life, faith, works, and influence. She covers the six decades since the end of World War II, a period she characterizes as post-Christian but increasingly evangelical, and selects writers for their world view and set of assumptions, rather than any particular writing style or explicitly Christian themes. They include Margaret Atwood, James Baldwin, Wendell Barry, Dan Brown, Graham Greene, Dean Koontz, Toni Morrison, Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, Anne Rice, John Updike, Alice Walker, and Evelyn Waugh. Each entry has a primary bibliography of novels and a secondary bibliography." - *Reference Research Book News* About the Author Nancy M. Tischler, PhD, is professor emerita of English and humanities at Pennsylvania State University.