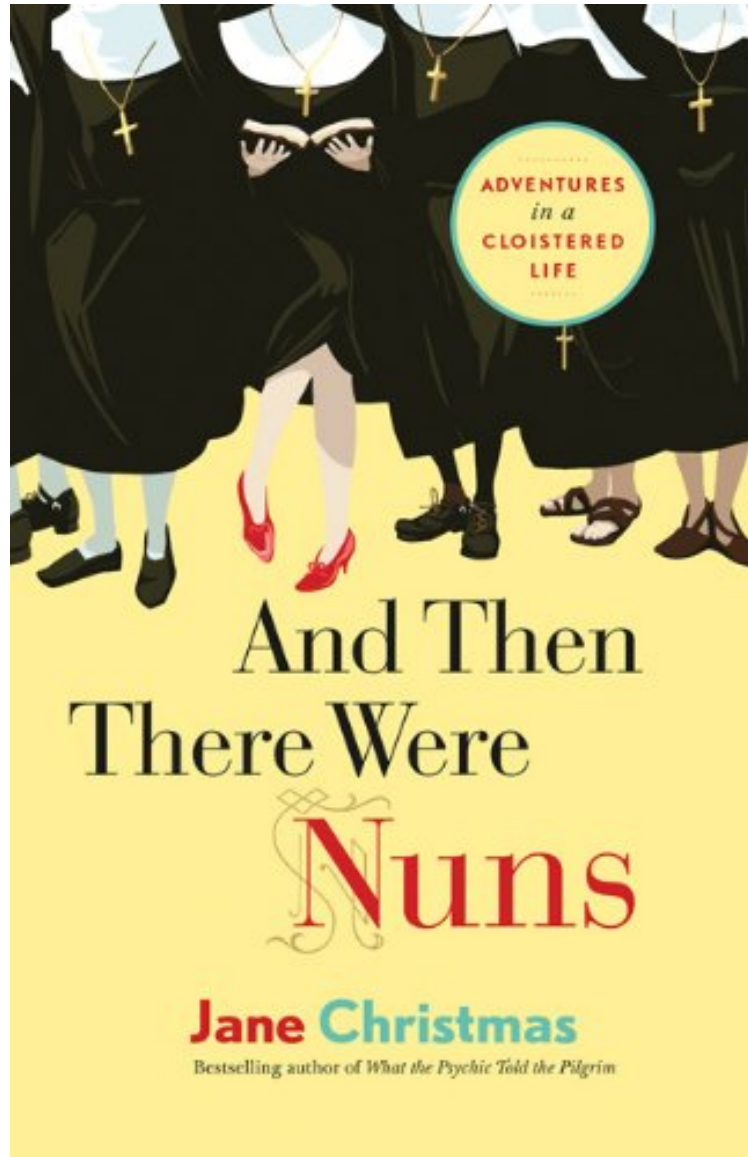


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And Then There Were Nuns: Adventures in a Cloistered Life

Jane Christmas

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Jane Christmas : And Then There Were Nuns: Adventures in a Cloistered Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And Then There Were Nuns: Adventures in a Cloistered Life:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Better Nun's Story By Teejay Better than most books in this genre, mostly because the author is not a naive simp but a modern, mature woman who can look at religious life and

its trappings with a clear, objective and sometimes even cynical eye. Her flexibility in relation to Roman Catholic vs Episcopal orders is also unique and very modern; she is more interested in inner peace and personal relations with God than in specific theology. Jane Christmas (great name) is sharp, imaginative and very inquisitive, and willing to put herself in peculiar circumstances to discern her vocation. No stern novice mistress or prioress will break her spirit, and the end of her story is refreshing and satisfying. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Good writing, wonderful content

By Ann A. I was raised in the Catholic Church at a time when entering the convent was a viable career path for a woman. Most of us had a family member or friend who was a religious or planned to become a nun or a priest. From the time I was a little girl going to parochial school, I planned to be a nun but with Vatican II all that changed and the path I was on was thrown a big curve: I never fulfilled that dream. Reading "And Then There Were Nuns: Adventures in a Cloistered Life", brought me back to a part of myself I left behind so many years ago. A well written and witty book that captures the spiritual and secular aspects of an important life journey, I recommend it for anyone who may also have a connection to that past or to an internal yearning for a spiritual or contemplative life. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a disappointment

By Kathy If you are looking for a book that talks about the deep spiritual issues or why people become nuns or what it is like on the other side of the grille this book isn't for you. It's a disappointment. It's a shallow story, slightly entertaining I guess. It would have been far more interesting if she had talked to her fellow attendees at the retreat as to their reasons for wanting to pursue religious life rather than concentrating on her nail polish. Or talking to head of the convent about her personal story of faith and how she came to live there. Instead she whines a lot. The nuns are too bossy, too quiet, I can't follow the service because there are too many books to juggle. The monks won't talk to me, I miss coffee, lent is a chore and a bore and I want my Saturday newspaper like everyone else. I regret buying this there must be other better books out there.

With humor and opinions aplenty, a woman embarks on an unconventional quest to see if she is meant to be a nun. Just as Jane Christmas decides to enter a convent in mid-life to find out whether she is nun material, her long-term partner Colin, suddenly springs a marriage proposal on her. Determined not to let her monastic dreams be sidelined, Christmas puts her engagement on hold and embarks on an extraordinary year long adventure to four convents one in Canada and three in the UK. In these communities of cloistered nuns and monks, she shares and at times chafes and rails against the silent, simple existence she has sought all of her life. Christmas takes this spiritual quest seriously, but her story is full of the candid insights, humorous social faux pas, profane outbursts, and epiphanies that make her books so relatable and popular. And Then There Were Nuns offers a seldom-seen look inside modern cloistered life, and it is sure to ruffle more than a few starched collars among the ecclesiastical set.

From Booklist *Starred* How awkward. Fiftyish Christmas long-term, long-distance boyfriend proposes just when she's decided she wants to become a nun. But does she really? Christmas takes readers along on a thought-provoking (and often amusing) journey to four count em, four cloistered communities in Great Britain, as she tries to make her life-changing decision over the course of many months. Along the way, she meets monks, nuns (both Catholic and Anglican), a demon or two, and possibly Jesus. Although she writes with a light touch, Christmas girds the narrative with solid questions. What does the religious life really entail? Why are religious communities almost forgotten, even by those of their faith? How do you choose between paths that are equally joyous and difficult, albeit in thoroughly dissimilar ways? As Jane (and it's hard to think of her as anything but Jane) and the audience come to learn, a traumatic event in her life must be resurrected and addressed while her future is being decided. This is the best kind of memoir, revealing, refreshing, and reflective enough to make readers turn many of the questions on themselves. A delightful trip down the road less traveled. --Ilene Cooper "A thought provoking (and often amusing) journey ... This is the best kind of memoir, revealing, refreshing, and reflective enough to make readers turn many of the questions on themselves. A delightful trip down the road less traveled." #8212 BookList Starred A lovely, heartfelt tale. Get thee to a bookstore and buy it. AJ Jacobs, author of The Year of Living Biblically Praise for What the Psychic Told the Pilgrim: "[Jane Christmas'] style is equal parts Nora Ephron and Bill Bryson" Quill and Quire