



Mary Wept Over the Feet of Jesus

Chester Brown

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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*.

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