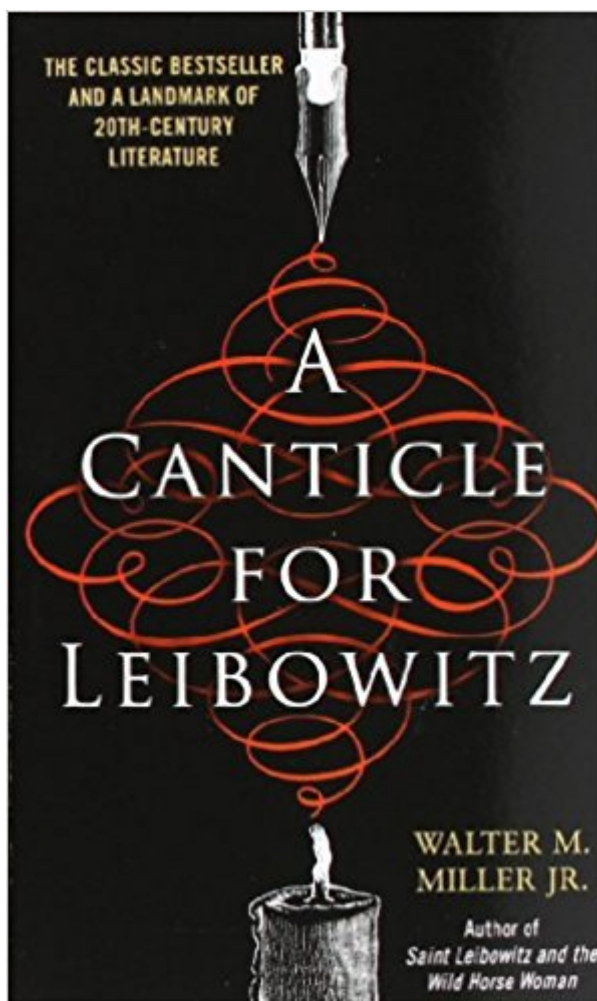


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A Canticle For Leibowitz



Synopsis

In the depths of the Utah desert, long after the Flame Deluge has scoured the earth clean, a monk of the Order of Saint Leibowitz has made a miraculous discovery: holy relics from the life of the great saint himself, including the blessed blueprint, the sacred shopping list, and the hallowed shrine of the Fallout Shelter. In a terrifying age of darkness and decay, these artifacts could be the keys to mankind's salvation. But as the mystery at the core of this groundbreaking novel unfolds, it is the search itself—*for meaning, for truth, for love*—that offers hope for humanity's rebirth from the ashes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Walter M. Miller's acclaimed SF classic *A Canticle for Leibowitz* opens with the accidental excavation of a holy artifact: a creased, brittle memo scrawled by the hand of the blessed Saint Leibowitz, that reads: "Pound pastrami, can kraut, six bagels--bring home for Emma." To the Brothers of Saint Leibowitz, this sacred shopping list penned by an obscure, 20th-century engineer is a symbol of hope from the distant past, from before the Simplification, the fiery atomic holocaust that plunged the earth into darkness and ignorance. As 1984 cautioned against Stalinism, so 1959's *A Canticle for Leibowitz* warns of the threat and implications of nuclear annihilation. Following a cloister of monks in their Utah abbey over some six or seven hundred years, the funny but bleak *Canticle* tackles the sociological and religious implications of the cyclical rise and fall of civilization, questioning whether humanity can hope for more than repeating its own history. Divided into three

sections--Fiat Homo (Let There Be Man), Fiat Lux (Let There Be Light), and Fiat Voluntas Tua (Thy Will Be Done)--Canticle is steeped in Catholicism and Latin, exploring the fascinating, seemingly capricious process of how and why a person is canonized. --Paul Hughes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• "Extraordinary ... chillingly effective."
• Time "Angry, eloquent ... a terrific story."
• The New York Times "An extraordinary novel ... Prodigiously imaginative, richly comic, terrifyingly grim, profound both intellectually and morally, and, above all ... simply such a memorable story as to stay with the reader for years."
• Chicago Tribune "An exciting and imaginative story ... Unconditionally recommended."
• Library Journal From the Trade Paperback edition.

This 1961 Hugo Award winner is a classic. It tells the story of a post-apocalyptic world in which knowledge has been destroyed by anti-intellectual mobs, and a small group of monks whose job it is to preserve what's left - even if they don't know what they have! One of my all time favorites, and I bought this for a young friend.

I have waited many years to read this book and it was well worth it. It's a timeless novel, as relevant today as it was when it first came out. There are many chilling passages that sneak up that left me thinking, worriedly, about the future - how we never seem to learn from our mistakes and an appalling realisation that we could be all bent on self destruction, despite full knowledge and awareness of the ultimate consequence. There are no superheroes or comic book characters here, only thought provoking actions whose importance to the story are revealed by seemingly ordinary prose with the effect of a velvet hammer. Told mainly from the viewpoint of sheltered monks, the story had me thanking Google Translate for Latin and me rueing taking Spanish in high school instead. But these occasional rest stops gave cause for savouring the quality of the novel. Definitely a must read for anyone interested in a contemplative apocalyptic saga, but requires patience to appreciate fully.

I'm not sure I could say enough about how much both my husband and I loved this book. It's original, believable, darkly humorous and profound. The book is divided into a few different periods of time exploring the themes that 1) human beings tend to repeat history and 2) the Word of God and Truth always prevail despite human failings. There are several other sub-themes, such as

exploration of euthanasia that are handled brilliantly. This is the sort of book that I could go back and read again, and I don't feel that way about many books, even classics.

I remember being captivated by this book. The story has three parts. With all of them being quite dark. Basically, humanity becomes barbaric by purging knowledge and learning. Then they recover and become advanced bringing space age. But again due to conflict, everything ends with a nuclear war. I am just amazed how Miller wrote such a novel during the 1940-1950s. It is so well written and so captivating! Hope someone makes a movie~

The book itself is a classic of Science Fiction but beware, the binding is a hard cover on a paperback book. It is paperback sized and not printed on good paper. If you expected a full-sized hardcover book you will be disappointed in this purchase. It would be nice if I would advise potential purchasers that they are getting a paperback book with cardboard covers.

Mentioned as an early influence by one of my favorite authors (Maria Doria Russell). The book is divided into 3 sections, each 600 years apart. It begins with monks, of all things, in a post-nuclear dark age, followed by a slow rebirth of technology in the next section, and presenting the threat of another nuclear war in the final section. The mission of the monks throughout is to collect and protect the remnants of science, history and religion from that lost age. The first section is charming, the central character comical in his religious fervor and naivete. My favorite idea from this section is his discovery of a fallout shelter from before. The word 'fallout' has terrible connotations but no practical idea of what it actually is, so it is pictured as a demon. When he discovers a 'fallout shelter', he believes it to be a safe place for the fallout (demons) to reside, so carefully does not disturb it (them). Oh, and some of the gibberish Latin is pretty funny, too. In the next 2 sections, what becomes most remarkable is the interpretation put on the thoughts and actions of the characters we've now come to know. They are unrecognizable as the people we've seen, which allows for a greater clarity when considering the lengths the monks have gone to to protect the artifacts like the 'Sacred Shopping List' that survived from before the dark age. Assigning importance and motive to remnants and actions recorded from history allows for colossal miscommunication and misdirection. This is an old book, first published in 1959, but new to me. The nuclear threat was as heavy in those days as it is again in ours. This is a terrific work of imagination that was, I believe, the result of living under the threat of nuclear attack and trying to see through the fear and the fog to what might be beyond. The great question it asks is are we doomed to complete the cycle -

repeatedly?

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