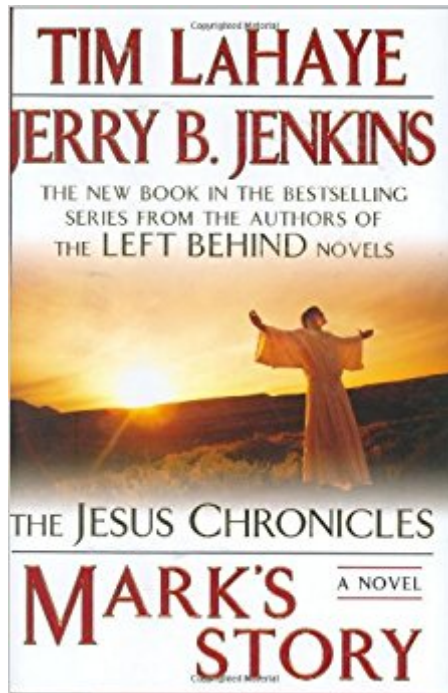


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# Mark's Story:(Jesus Chronicles (Putnam))



## Synopsis

Mark's Story opens on the evening of the last day of Jesus as man. The young Mark hears Jesus' prophecies of the events that are to come, and bears witness to some of the most pivotal events in human history, including Judas Iscariot's betrayal, Peter's denial of his Master, and Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection as the risen Lord. In the years after, following in the footsteps of his friend and mentor Peter, Mark becomes an ardent follower of Jesus and a devoted disciple of Christianity, spreading the Word beyond Jerusalem and into the world. Mark urges Peter to recount to him the stories of Jesus' life on Earth-His messages, His miracles, and His everlasting promises to His people-and compiles what becomes canonized as the Gospel of Mark. Mark chronicles the growth of the early Christian church, the struggles of Jesus' followers, and the persecution they endured from a hostile world. Mark's Story is a thrilling account that vividly depicts the last day before Jesus' crucifixion and the danger that early believers faced as they boldly proclaimed Jesus as Christ the Lord. Their bravery laid the foundation for the early church, and their fervent passion for the Word reverberates throughout the world today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

. . . from the authors of "John's Story", with presumably Jenkins doing most of the writing and LaHaye providing the "theology". Again, a caveat, because it seems as though every time I write something critical about LaHaye or Jenkins I get bashed as some sort of anti-Christian kook -- and nothing is further from the truth. I am a devout Christian; most would consider me rather

conservative; and I have served in Christian education and ministry for many years. My dislike for the writing of these two individuals has nothing to do with my own personal relationship with Jesus -- and everything to do with bad writing and worse theology. The only reason I deal with this c\*\*p at all is due to the numbers of students I teach who seem to think that LaHaye and Jenkins and their writings represent traditional, historic Christianity -- and this is simply not the case. First, the good bits: (and yes, I have some good bits to say!) The quality of the writing has improved significantly since "John's Story". It still does not approach quality writing, but is an improvement. The depth of the characters and the quality of the storytelling has also improved. No Pulitzer Prize here -- but certainly an improvement. The "padding" is greatly reduced. One of my criticisms from "John's Story" is that so much of the book was devoted to merely reproducing the Johannine Corpus directly from Scripture. While "Mark's Story" is about the same length as "John's Story" and while the Gospel According to Mark, and the two Epistles of Peter are appended, the appendix is so much shorter. (There is, of course, no mention of the authorship questions surrounding 2nd Peter -- questions the Early Church Fathers struggled with until late in the 4th century.

This book follows the life of John Mark, most commonly called Mark, from the time he is 16 until his death. The book actually starts during Passover of the year that Jesus dies and is resurrected. We get to see the birth of the early church, Mark's various journeys, and his conversations with Peter that formed the basis of the Gospel that bears his name. Oh, that I had actually liked the book. Actually, there was one part I did like. The parts about the crucifixion and resurrection were good. In fact, they moved me to tears at a couple of points. Unfortunately, that was the early part of the book and it went downhill from there. The book suffered from several problems. Firstly, there is hardly any plot. This is a fictional biography based on the brief mentions of Mark we get in the Bible and tradition handed down from the early church. That's fine, except there is no overall story. And the points that couple have had some tension to them, like Mark leaving Paul during his first journey, as all but glossed over. The characters are mostly flat. Paul has the most personality, followed by Peter. Mark is little more than cardboard. And it goes downhill from there. Finally, large passages of the book are nothing but quotes from the New Testament with the pronouns changed. It becomes laughable when the characters are talking in simple sentences one minute and in New King James (at least that's my guess) the next. Almost all of Mark shows up at some point, which makes it rather funny that it and first and second Peter are included in the appendix. I regularly read the Bible, but that's not what I want when I sit down with fiction. I actually listened to the unabridged audio as narrated by Robertson Dean.

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