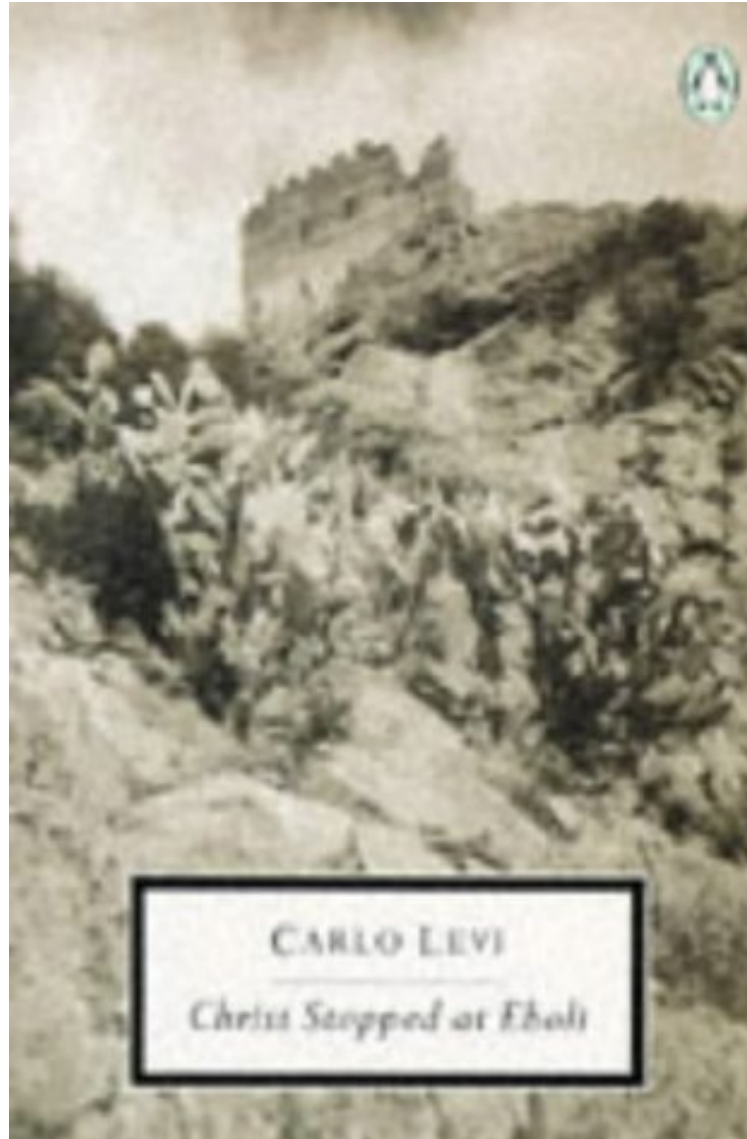


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## Christ Stopped at Eboli

*Carlo Levi*

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**Carlo Levi : Christ Stopped at Eboli** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christ Stopped at Eboli:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Glimpse Into The Lives Of A Forgotten PeopleBy Lucy M.Haunting and beautifully written Carlo Levi gives us a glimpse of a part of Italy that was forgotten and neglected and tells of the daily life of an impoverished, superstitious people who had resigned to their lot. Banished to a small town in Lucania (now the region known as Basilicata) because of his anti-fascist activity, Levi, a doctor, writer and

artist, spent one year in captivity internalizing his experiences. A few years later during WWII, while hiding out in a room in Florence because he was a Jew, he wrote the book, *Christ Stopped at Eboli*. The book is poetry, prose, and a scathing condemnation of the Italian government who shamefully neglected southern Italy after the Risorgimento and subsequent unification of Italy. Christ did not literally stop at Eboli. The title infers that the peasants of Lucania felt they were less than human...that the term "Christian" was synonymous with the word human and humanity stopped north of them. Centuries of oppression led them to consider themselves not much more than mules. Levi's lucid description helped begin the conversation of the "Problem of the South" after the war ended. As a descendant of grandparents who emigrated from this Italian region, the book touched me on a personal level. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This Book Answers The Question: Why Did Christ Stop At Eboli By Ikiru This book was a major surprise. I was looking for something to read about Basilicata, the region in southern Italy between Puglia and Campania. I had heard of the title but no idea what it was about. The author, Carlo Levi, was a northern Italian anti-fascist, when in 1935 he was exiled by Mussolini to a small village in the south. He writes feelingly and poetically about the people and place, the daily struggle of the peasants, and what life was like in a region so remote and out of the way, it was considered a good alternative to prison for Mussolini's political enemies. When the book was published in the late 1940's, many Italians felt shamed by the description of inhuman conditions, eventually leading to a nationwide movement to improve the lives of people who had been disregarded for so long. It may not sound that compelling, but the book's great surprise is that you are totally drawn into Levi's growing empathy and solidarity with his downtrodden neighbors. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed the writing (or the translation) By Susan SI did not finish this book in time for my book group as it wasn't a page turner (I did later.) However, I really enjoyed the writing (or the translation?) which was excellent. Really interesting character studies and instant transportation to a specific time and place. The book did generate a good discussion about the people and the state of poverty. I'm not sure I liked the book as much as really appreciated it. An escapist novel it is not.

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