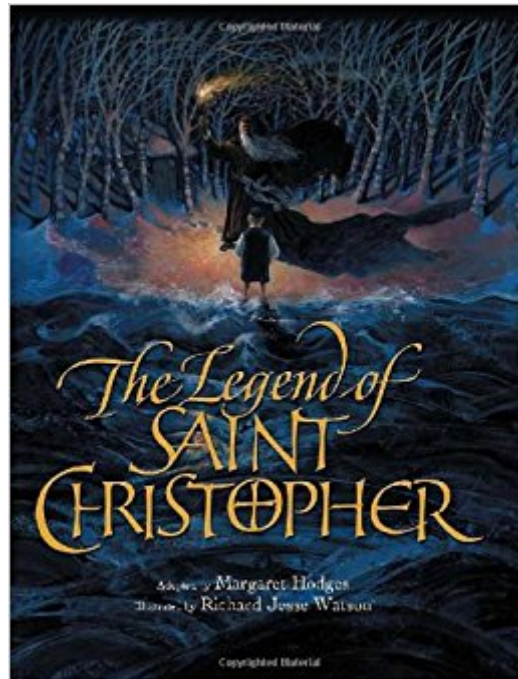




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# Legend Of Saint Christopher



## Synopsis

The legend of Saint Christopher, first written in the thirteenth century, tells the story of a strong man named Offero, who wants to find the greatest ruler in all the world and to serve him as his bearer. Offero's search is in vain until a mysterious child at a riverside asks Offero to carry him over the river. Only after Offero has carried the child over the river does he discover the child's true identity. Then Offero's name is changed to Christopher. / Author Margaret Hodges retells with power and simplicity this unforgettable tale of the man who became known as the patron saint of travelers. And illustrator Richard Jesse Watson has created hypnopompic paintings that dramatically capture Offero's journey and the brilliance of his discovery of the One he sought. / Based on old nursery rhymes, the poetic text by Newbery Honor winner Kathi Appelt and the beautiful light-filled paintings of Debra Reid Jenkins combine to make this gentle bedtime story a perfect illustration of God's abiding love.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 10 years

Grade Level: 3 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Hodges (Saint George and the Dragon) masterfully adapts William Caxton's 15th-century translation of The Golden Legend to serve up a saint's tale with strong folkloric elements. Offero, a strong man who works as a bearer (porter), wants to serve the greatest king in the world. When he discovers that the king fears the devil, Offero concludes the devil is mightier, and serves him until he learns

that the devil fears Christ. Offero's search to serve Christ teaches him that his own inner grace is even stronger than his physical prowess. Watson's (The High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake) artwork achieves a startling blend of the ancient and the timeless, the archetypal and the particular he paints narrative elements in representational oils, reserving the backgrounds for abstract patterns that hint at the mythic roots of legend. All ages. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-6-Hodges does a fine job of adapting and retelling the saint's story from William Caxton's 15th-century Golden Legend, acknowledging that these tales were not meant to be historical. Offero has a desire to serve the greatest king in the world. He serves a variety of masters, including a monarch and a cruel devil, believing each is the greatest ruler, until the sign of a cross causes the devil to flee, and Offero looks for Christ. A hermit tells him that he should take travelers across the river to find Christ, and one night he carries a young boy who becomes so heavy that he feels like the world is on his shoulders. The child is Christ, carrying the burdens of the world. Changing the man's name to Christopher, which means the Christ-bearer, Christ sends him back to the river to continue helping travelers. Hodges's style is fluid and has the cadence and rhythm of an experienced storyteller. The text is well illustrated by Watson's sometimes complex, full-page paintings done in oils on acrylic. While the figures are realistic, the backgrounds are mysterious and impressionistic, dark and somewhat foreboding until after the encounter with Christ, when they become infused with light. As she did in *St. Jerome and the Lion* (Orchard, 1991; o.p.), Hodges brings the story to life for young readers. Jane G. Connor, South Carolina State Library, Columbia Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beautiful pictures. Wonderful story. My kids love it.

I bought this book as a gift for a good friend of mine, whose first name is Christopher, so he could read it to his grandchildren. It's a darling story of how Saint Christopher came to be, very colorful pictures, easy to understand, creative and makes the mind work, so is a wonderful coffee table book or for your child's bedroom, or rooms where children will be. I highly recommend it for folks who like to read to their little ones!

It's a well-told story with beautiful illustrations that are intended for an older child. I'd go with a

different book for a younger one, as I wouldn't want the illustrations to worry them. Also, the sale went smoothly!

Awesome great cool loving book that makes me want to do something like this book I just read I will read it again

Loved it!

Item was shipped and received as described.

This book is interesting and wonderfully illustrated. However, I would recommend it for elementary children and not preschool. My daughter (and my husband, for that matter) were a little off-put by the segment of the story about the devil. That is why I gave it 4 stars instead of 5.

good bookfor kids

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