



Sati

Christopher Pike

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The first adult novel from a bestselling author of young adult fiction. Michael picks up a young hitch-hiker in the Arizona desert, bringing her home and letting her sleep on his couch. The next day, she talks about being God--and strange things begin to happen to everyone coming in contact with her.. . .

--SATI-- — I once knew this girl who thought she was God. — She didn't give sight to the blind — or raise the dead. She didn't even teach anything, — not really, and she never — told me anything I probably didn't already know. — --SATI-- — On the other hand, she didn't expect — to be worshipped, nor did she ask for money.

Given her high opinion of herself,

some might call that a miracle.

--SATI--

I don't know, maybe she was God. Her name was Sati

and she had blonde hair and blue eyes.

--SATI--

For all who meet her, Sati will change everything.

Sati may change everything for you.

"Christopher Pike, the author of the bestselling young adult novel Chain Letter, takes an unusual approach. His mysterious, enlightened heroine, Sati, claiming that she is God, changes forever the lives of the people around her... [who learn] by her example about love, compassion, acceptance, and the beauty of life. Pike has the ability to tell a good story with conviction and clarity." --ALA Booklist

Sati Details

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Author : Christopher Pike

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From Reader Review Sati for online ebook

Izzy says

Eh. Preachy. I love me some Christopher Pike and re-read his stuff on the regular. Any reader of his work knows how spiritual it can get, even in the midst of some bizarre horror plot line. *Sati* seems like it might have been his labor of love, and Pike's style is still distinct. Yet it is slow to the point of boring (though blessedly short) and vague (almost as if he didn't want to get that far into the subject matter). In my opinion, this resulted in a novel that skirted the issues he REALLY wanted to write about; a ghost of his brainchild. Dumbed-down, perhaps, to mollify his publishers. Of course, if one wanted a religious text, one could just as easily pick one off the shelf. I wouldn't even classify this as an "adult" book, as it is simple enough for the YA set, with a lot less sex and violence than his other books. If I were writing a Cliff's Notes, it might go something like this: "Sati arrives. People are entranced but don't believe she is God. Abbreviated character development. She speaks in holy riddles. Unsatisfying ending. No reader discussion." The things I did like about the novel were the Pike-isms. His simple, unique way of describing people in a dated way that still holds up, for some reason. It's oddly effective. California. A quick read. Worth it for fans, but I'll go back to clutching my tattered copy of *Remember Me*.

A.J. says

A few things stuck in my craw:

- Sati (the character) is not preachy, but the narrative more than makes up for it. This story, Pike's first "adults only" novel, is about as subtle as an after-school special.
 - The reader is never really made to connect with Sati, and is never given a character to sympathize with. Sati is too perfect. "Ordinary" characters are too villainous. The villains are - well, you get the point.
 - Clearly we are meant to believe that Sati is telling the absolute truth about being a god - the thought of her being a fraud, or simply crazy, is never given a decent chance; compare the novel K-PAX (or better yet, the film version) for an example of how this can be skillfully done. Again, subtlety is not Pike's strong point here.
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Sarah Schmitt says

This is one of my favorite books of all time. I've read it several times over the years and every time I get something different out of it. And every time I cry at the end.

Zina says

Did not like, the only reason I did read it was...guilty as charged because of its cover, I know I know.

But frankly the novel is a complete stereotype, the whole "a trucker dude hitchhikes a majestic lady in white which by the way has really long blond hair and turns out to be a goddess I mean dude what is this Joy Ride? no wait I think that's something else. Anyway wait I hated the most were those supposedly peaceful sessions where you had an out of mind experience oh and ofcourse the mouth-watering cookies that she bakes...- ____-, someones been having too much drinky drinky, okay that was rude lets just say overall that I did not like the book, its sad really to write a whole novel in a sacriligious kind of way almost.

In the end what do you think happens? NO YOU GUESSED IT! yes, nothing happens the "goddess" dies and he ends up burrying her in the desert but her body evaporates? I do not remember or wish to remember at all. Oh and just to add to the cheesiness in the end end he hitchhikes ANOTHER lady in white.....SERIOUSLY?!?!?!?

Carrie (brightbeautifulthings) says

I started a re-reading project earlier this year of books that make me feel most like myself. I'm not sure when or how Sati first fell into my hands. I read a lot of Christopher Pike growing up, mostly acquired from friends of my mom's who loved garage saling and brought me boxes and boxes of books. Sati may have come from one of those as well—certainly, my reading it was a natural offshoot of my love for his novels—but I'm just not sure. My copy was hardcover and secondhand, but it didn't look anything like the rest of my Pike books.

To my continued dismay, my boyfriend at the time borrowed it and then lost it. He was a raging atheist who, having been raised a strict Christian, knew more about religion than most people (ironically, like most of the atheists I know). I was an uncertain nothing-in-particular who believed in just about everything as long as it didn't come from a church, and I thought he might like a different perspective. I got a new copy when it was re-printed, but I'm still mourning the loss of the original; I'm sure if his mother ever found it, she set it on fire.

Michael Winters is a long-distance truck driver in the middle of a divorce. One night in the desert on his way home from hauling freight, he picks up a hitchhiker. Sati is young and blonde, and she thinks she's God. She starts holding meetings starting with Michael's small circle of friends. He's pretty sure she isn't God, but there is something about her. Sati has a gravity that attracts and soothes; she affects everyone who meets her, and her primary message is one of love.

I love pretty much everything about this book. The characters are flawed and sympathetic and human, and the narrative is straightforward and almost spare given some of the difficult concepts in it. The themes are similar to ones that run throughout a lot of Pike's fiction, which is one of the reasons I've always been drawn to it. They feel real to me like nothing I've ever heard in a church has. I've read some criticism that the ideas in Sati aren't particularly original, but I have to disagree. I've never read another book like this, that directly addresses spiritual questions, with flavors of Christianity and Hinduism and the new age, without being strictly denominational. This is not a Christian book; it's not even really a religious book, but it is profoundly spiritual.

My family wasn't especially church-going, but we were believers: in God, in ghosts, in intuition. This novel is where I got some of my first ideas about religion. Like *Dandelion Wine*, it showed me that there was another way to live. That there was nothing to be gained by being miserable all the time, and that it was possible that the universe just wanted me to be happy, not in a hedonistic way, but in a real way. It was life-

changing for me because Sati's ideas are simple and universal, and they feel true—but she doesn't ask for belief, or for anything else. If she isn't God, she's everything I'd like to think God stands for. I like to think it kept me open-minded; I'm certain that it's one of the books that shaped me into the person I am now.

I review regularly at brightbeautifulthings.tumblr.com.

Angela Aubergine says

another excellent read by Christopher Pike. this one will stay with me.

Ceecee says

What can I say, I'm into Hindu/Buddhist/New Age-y concepts and that kind of stuff. Granted, **Sati** doesn't really tell us anything new, but the things she does tell us, are *worth* retelling.

"Why be optimistic about the future? Why be pessimistic? Why not see things as they are? The present is always filled with joy, and love...If you were to live fully in the moment for only a moment, the stress and strain of your entire life would be washed away."

"Enjoy your life. No curse hangs over you, nor did it ever. No devil chases after your soul."

"Don't simply knock and wait for the door to be opened. Go look for the keys. Some fit the lock better than others."

"There comes a time for everybody when words and reasons can become such a great weariness."

"A true teacher would never tell you what to do. But he would give you the knowledge with which you could decide what would be best for you to do."

Yes, I practically copy-pasted the already existing quotes under Sati in GR. Sorry about that.

At times, this style of writing reminded me of Paulo Coelho, but that may just be a coincidence. I read that Christopher Pike is somehow popular the way R.L. Stine is popular, and that he doesn't really have a great writing style, he just makes good stories, which is good enough for me. I've only read one other book of his, something about a teenage time traveller, and it was pretty interesting. I wouldn't mind picking up another book of his to pass the time.

Anyway, I rate this 4.5 stars, because reading it raised the hairs on my arms, and I liked it, and I felt immense peace, which is something very important to me.

Starr Waddell says

This was my favorite book when I was a preteen. Although it has some insightful parts, I now know where my eating disorder came from. I think there's a new version, and I really hope it's been revised. It's kind of unbelievable what we have sat here and listened to people tell us about the world and ourselves all these years.

Preeti says

Reviewed in 2004.]

I would put this book on the same level as Siddhartha. It explores religion without really calling it religion, without it really being religion. Sati is a simple, blonde, blue-eyed woman who says she is God and that she has come to play in her world.

She doesn't want to teach, she doesn't want to have a following per se, but all she wants is for people to be happy. We exist to increase her joy, which is already infinite.

Whether or not she is God, her message is simple: through inner silence, we can achieve joy.

The book is a mixture of Hindu and Buddhist thought. It's very simple, very easy to read, but I guarantee it will affect you profoundly.

Jo says

I think this book is perfect after a big change in one's life, a change that leaves you lost, confused, and unsettled in your own skin. Sati was divine when I first read it (at 16) and now, a decade later, it continues to calm and direct me. Ten years and I still get lost on the same spiritual path. The message, of course, remains the same. It always has, but we humans have short memories. The great teachers of the world have never wavered. The book draws from the spiritual principles of all the glorious religions on Earth. Nothing in the external world can bring you peace or happiness. Not money, not even loved ones. It can only come from inside of you. No one else can help you. No one else can eliminate that anguish. The concept of finding your own peace is appealing when life is good. When life is bad, words become a burden, the thought of having to rely on yourself to get it together is even more frightening. But this is when you are truly tested. Will you clutch to the old ways of handling things? Relying on others? Or will you use the lessons of Sati, among others, and find peace and silence within yourself?

Anyway, I love this book. It reminds me that we all need a Spiritual Teacher/some guidance every now and then. Sati is one of mine.

lisa says

I ended up grabbing Sati off the shelf, cos I haven't read it in a while and I knew I could put it down with no regrets if it didn't really catch my attention.

Of course, as always, it caught my attention and reminded me how much I love it, Christopher Pike, and the world in general.

It's one of those books that I can't reread all the time because it's slow-paced and character-driven and philosophical and I know it all like the back of my hand, but I still try to get through it once a year because it leaves me refreshed and ready to face the world. It's the only book that came with me every single semester of college for the same exact reason. (It's also the book I am most likely to buy copies of whenever I find it so I can give it to the people who matter.)

Anyway, I had a pretty shitty week, and then I read Sati, and now I feel a lot better. If you want to read it, I will loan you my (well-loved!) copy, as long as you swear on your life that you will return it. (Cos even though I have a spare copy, the spare is a signed first edition and therefore is for petting, not for reading.)

(review pulled from lj.)

Renee says

When I was in middle school, Christopher Pike was the more mature version of R.L. Stine...only girls who enjoyed being scared out of their wits read his books. My sister had this book, and I remember reading it expecting another scary horror twist. This is not your normal Christopher Pike book. This is a spiritual novel, only shelved in young adult or horror because bookstores want Pike fans to be able to find all of his books in one place. When I was a little kid trying to read this, a great deal of it flew right over my head. Revisiting the novel now was a wonderful idea.

Having the time, I sat down and finished it in a matter of hours, but even if the amount of time someone spends reading it amounts to a handful of moments, the experience lasts. Pike is not saying anything about religion or spirituality that hasn't already been said, really, but he says it well and simply. In the end, you finish the book and feel pretty content...and how often can you say that?

Rachelle says

Sati is a beautiful, spiritual book, and I highly recommend it for everyone, but especially those starting out on their spiritual paths. I found this book to be perfect, but my experience of reading it might have been more enjoyable a few years ago, when the spiritual principles presented in it were newer to me. Still, Sati serves as a good reminder of these principles, and on top of that, it made me feel very calm and connected, which is always a miracle.

Jill Furedy says

I unboxed a bunch of old Pike and LJ Smith books from my teenage years and thought...I should reread these and see if they are still any good. Not that they would have expired and gone bad with age, but my opinion of them could have. I saw the republished Thirst and Remember Me but finally picked up the newly rereleased Sati to begin with. It's described as one of Pike's adult novels, which makes sense when most teenage books feature teenagers, not divorcees. But nothing in it was particularly "adult" material.

The young woman who claims to be God and who espouses the belief that humans are here to be happy is an interesting character...you can't help but look for holes in her story and facade, as does the main character.

And the group around her, eventually left with nothing but questions, memories and cookies, are an appropriately diverse group for her to show her ability to reach out to everyone. Was she God or not?

Nothing is definitively answered, but does it matter? Firstly, it's fiction...but secondly, regardless of who she was, she made an impact of the people she encountered, whether they believed or doubted. And she seems to have helped them inch closer to their happiness either way as well, which was her goal. If this book is going to end up in the young adult section, at least they will have something spiritual to ponder and question instead of just being entertained by paranormal romances.

Stella says

Littttttle preachy for my taste. When I read Christopher Pike, I want murder, mystery and dumb teenagers.
