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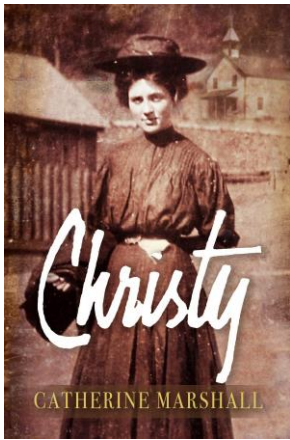


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PRESS RELEASE

Catherine Marshall's *Christy* celebrates its 50th anniversary

A new edition of the classic story of determination and devotion to be released



Seattle: Some stories are evergreen, their themes and lessons standing the test of time and connecting with readers generation after generation. One such book is **Catherine Marshall's *Christy*** (Evergreen Farm, an imprint of Gilead Publishing/October 17, 2017/ ISBN 9781683701262/\$24.99), originally released in 1967 and now celebrating its 50th anniversary with the release of a new hardcover edition and its first-ever release as an e-book. Based on Marshall's mother's life, the story of *Christy* is one of determination, devotion and commitment to making a difference in the world.

Marshall's best seller tells the story of nineteen-year-old teacher Christy Huddleston who moves from her home in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1912 and finds herself in Cutter Gap, a Smoky Mountain community that feels suspended in time, trapped by poverty, superstitions and century-old traditions. Christy struggles to find acceptance in her new home, and some of the Cutter Gap residents see her — and her one-room school — as a threat to their way of life. Her faith is challenged by trial and tragedy, and her heart is torn between two strong men with conflicting views about how to care for the families of the Cove.

Christy landed on the *New York Times* list on November 5, 1967. Since then, more than 10 million copies have been sold worldwide, and the book blazed a trail for the new Christian fiction genre. In 1994, more families were introduced to the beloved character, Christy, and to the works of Marshall when the story inspired a CBS television movie pilot starring Kellie Martin that was so well received, it became a TV series.

"The story of *Christy* has endured because of its timeless themes. A young person, barely 19, is inspired to contribute her time and talents to make a difference," states Nancy LeSourd, Evergreen Farm's publisher and spokesperson for the Marshall-LeSourd family. "*Christy* is a tale of courage, determination, and passion. Christy and other key characters in the novel have to learn how to take who they are, and what they have to give, and serve a community that challenges them in ways they cannot anticipate. Even though the story took place 100 years ago, these key characters' approaches to making a difference is not unlike the Millennial generation today."

In conjunction with the bestselling book's Golden Anniversary, the e-book will be available for the first time. Readers can purchase the digital edition through online retailers, and libraries can now include the digital book in their OverDrive collection. Its re-release will introduce a new generation of readers to the story that has delighted millions and inspired many authors in the Christian genre. *Christy* will also mark the first release under Gilead Publishing's Evergreen Farm imprint, specializing in books written by both Catherine Marshall and Dr. Peter Marshall.

"There is a whole generation of readers who aren't familiar with *Christy*, and we want to introduce them to her story," explains Dan Balow, CEO and Publisher of Gilead Publishing. "Our intention was to create a book to be read, not placed in a shelf as a keepsake, so readers won't find commemorative features. The book being available in digital format for the first time is an avenue of reaching a vast new audience."

[The Christy Awards™](#), the industry's premiere award program for recognizing excellence in Christian fiction, was named in honor of the book. This award promotes the power of story written from a Christian worldview in nine categories. This year's The Christy Awards™ will be awarded November 8, 2017, in Nashville in association with The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's (ECPA) Publishing University (PubU) and The Art of Writing conference.

Learn more about the 50th anniversary of *Christy* plus download a free map of Cutter Gap by visiting www.christybook.com. Readers can also keep up with news on future Evergreen Farm releases via [Facebook \(@gileadpublishing\)](#) and [Twitter \(@GileadPub\)](#).



About the Author

Catherine Marshall (1914-1983), the *New York Times* best-selling author of 30 books, is best known for her novel *Christy*. Based on the life of her mother, Christy captured the hearts of millions and became a popular CBS television series. Around the kitchen table at Evergreen Farm, as her mother reminisced, Marshall probed for details and insights into the rugged lives of these Appalachian highlanders.

She also shared the story of her husband, Dr. Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the United States Senate during World War II, in *A Man Called Peter*. The movie version, an immediate box-office hit, was nominated for an Academy Award. A decade after Dr. Marshall's untimely death, Marshall married Leonard LeSourd, Executive Editor of *Guideposts*. The writing team collaborated often at Evergreen Farm on *Christy* and 17 other books.

A beloved inspirational writer and speaker, Marshall's enduring career spanned four decades and six continents and reached more than 30 million readers.



About the Spokesperson

Nancy LeSourd, is the daughter-in-law of Catherine Marshall and spokesperson for the Marshall-LeSourd family. She grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, during the turbulent civil rights era of the 1960s, where she learned first-hand as a teenager the impact that a young person can have on history. She taught history in middle school and high school before becoming a lawyer and has more than 30 years of experience as an intellectual property attorney, helping nonprofit organizations maximize their publishing assets.

LeSourd also serves as publisher for Evergreen Farm, an imprint of Gilead Publishing. Nancy and her husband, Jeff, live at Evergreen Farm in Lincoln, Virginia, and have two delightful grown children.

Suggested interview questions

- How many copies of *Christy* have been sold in the last 50 years since its original release?
- Why do you think *Christy* resonated with so many people at the time it was written? What makes this story as culturally relevant today as it was when it was first written?
- Readers throughout time have always had a strong emotional connection to *Christy*. What is it about *Christy* that especially resonates with young women especially?
- Are there special features in the new edition, for both those who have read and loved *Christy* many years ago and younger generations who aren't familiar with the book?
- In what ways will Millennials be able to relate to *Christy*, a character based on a woman who was born 120 years ago?

- How has *Christy* shaped Christian fiction and the Christian publishing industry as a whole?
- What would Catherine Marshall think of the book being so popular that it became a beloved TV series?
- What lessons can those who are about to make a life change and enter an unfamiliar world glean from the story of *Christy*?

To request a review copy of *Christy*, to schedule an interview with Nancy LeSourd or for more information, please contact Audra Jennings, audra@lifusegroup.com.