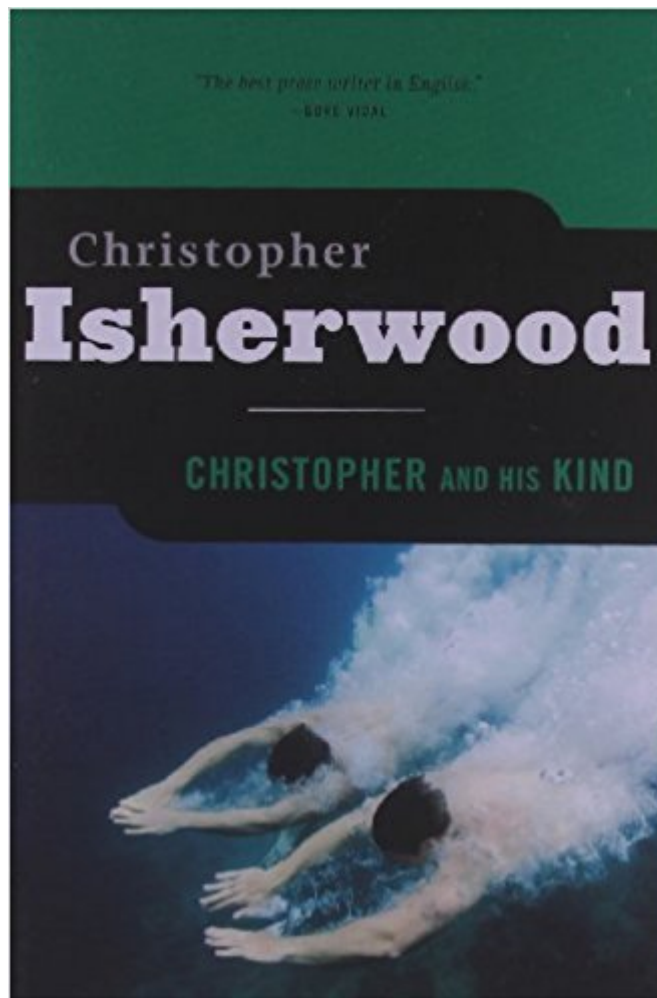


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# Christopher And His Kind



## Synopsis

Originally published in 1976, *Christopher and His Kind* covers the most memorable ten years in the writer's life—from 1929, when Isherwood left England to spend a week in Berlin and decided to stay there indefinitely, to 1939, when he arrived in America. His friends and colleagues during this time included W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, and E. M. Forster, as well as colorful figures he met in Germany and later fictionalized in his two Berlin novels—who appeared again, fictionalized to an even greater degree, in *I Am a Camera* and *Cabaret*. What most impressed the first readers of this memoir, however, was the candor with which he describes his life in gay Berlin of the 1930s and his struggles to save his companion, a German man named Heinz, from the Nazis. An engrossing and dramatic story and a fascinating glimpse into a little-known world, *Christopher and His Kind* remains one of Isherwood's greatest achievements. A major figure in twentieth-century fiction and the gay rights movement, Christopher Isherwood (1904-1986) is the author of *Down There on a Visit*, *Lions and Shadows*, *A Meeting by the River*, *The Memorial*, *Prater Violet*, *A Single Man*, and *The World in the Evening*, all available from the University of Minnesota Press.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Indispensable for admirers of this truly masterly

writer.”—[Peter Stansky, The New York Times Book](#)

Review “The best prose writer in English. . . . The later Isherwood is even better than the

early cameraman.”—[Gore Vidal, The New York Review of](#)

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Coming soon...Coming soon... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Christopher and His Kind" is both an autobiographical and a historical piece. It's not a novel. Based on his and other's diaries of the 1930s Christopher Isherwood narrates his experiences of the time in Europe as the Nazis rise to power in Germany. In the third person he tells the story of how Hitler's Germany affected "Christopher's" long-term relationship with a young man who was a German national. He succeeds in placing the reader into the period he describes. I felt as if I were traveling with him.

I decided to pick up this book after hearing that Matt Smith would be acting in an adaptation. Not the most promising start, but it puts my opinion in perspective. I will refrain from talking much about the plot, other than to say it's a book about his experiences in Germany just before WWII. I found this book to be a perspective I had never heard before, and it turned me on to other works by Isherwood. I'm still working through them, but his unique point of view appeals to me. He offers a fresh view on an oft-written about subject, ie Nazi Germany. He balances explicit detail and taste perfectly.

I enjoyed the BBC movie. It prompted me to settle down with the book. Overall enjoyable, maybe just a little bit too pissed off at his younger self. Still, a great view of a huge period for the literary stars of the day.

I'm not much of a literary critic, but I must say that Mr. Isherwood's little "autobiography" was wonderful. I couldn't put it down. After reading Goodbye to Berlin, I needed to have more of his works, and finding this gem on kindle was fantastic. I highly recommend this to anyone with an interest in Pre-WWII Germany, LGBT History, or just a good read.

This is one of those books that is better than the movie! A great insight into gay life in the 30's in Europe and America. A must read for queer and non-queer readers! It is all about boys. Daniel Torres

Isherwood here presents some of the "truth" behind many of the accounts that make up "Mr. Norris

Changes Trains" and "Goodbye to Berlin," while also filling in material that occurred around those events.

Isherwood takes a look backward at some of his earlier writings and choices he made as a young man, especially the years in Berlin and travels that culminate in his moving to the U.S. The style is interesting--he writes as a critic of his life and works as well as an autobiographer. It's an easy and informative read.

I was excited to read this book after I saw they had the movie on Netflix. I wanted to read the book before I watched the movie. I was going to order the other cover version, but when I saw this version I was determined to get it. It came quick and was packaged well. They even gave me a bookmark. Overall the book is interesting and by far the best autobiography I've read.

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