

Ordinary Life

Once upon a time . . .

Ordinary Life



Ordinary Life

"It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."

- Jane Austin, *Pride and Prejudice*



Ordinary Life

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity. It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness. It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

- Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

A Tale of
Two Cities



CHARLES DICKENS



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Ordinary Life

"Happy families are all alike;
every unhappy family is
unhappy in its own way."

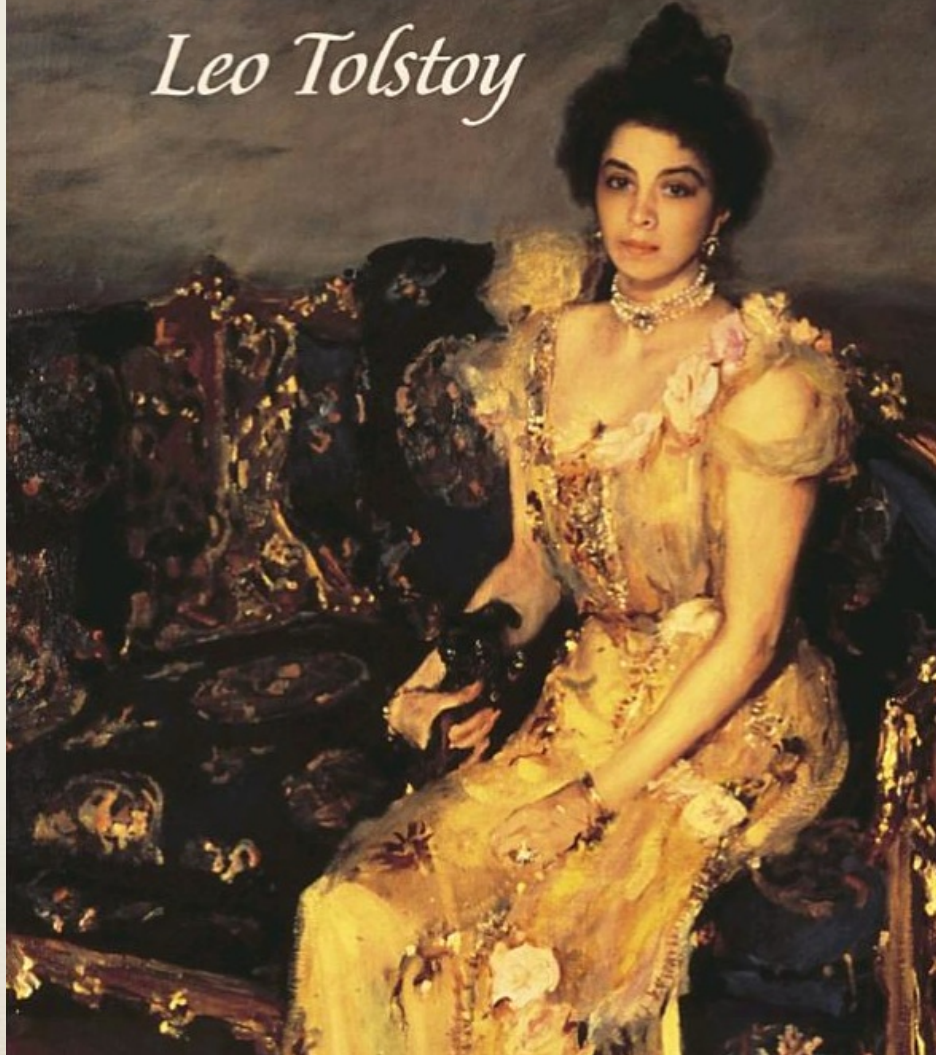
Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

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B A N T A M C L A S S I C

Anna Karenina

Leo Tolstoy



Ordinary Life

"You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly."

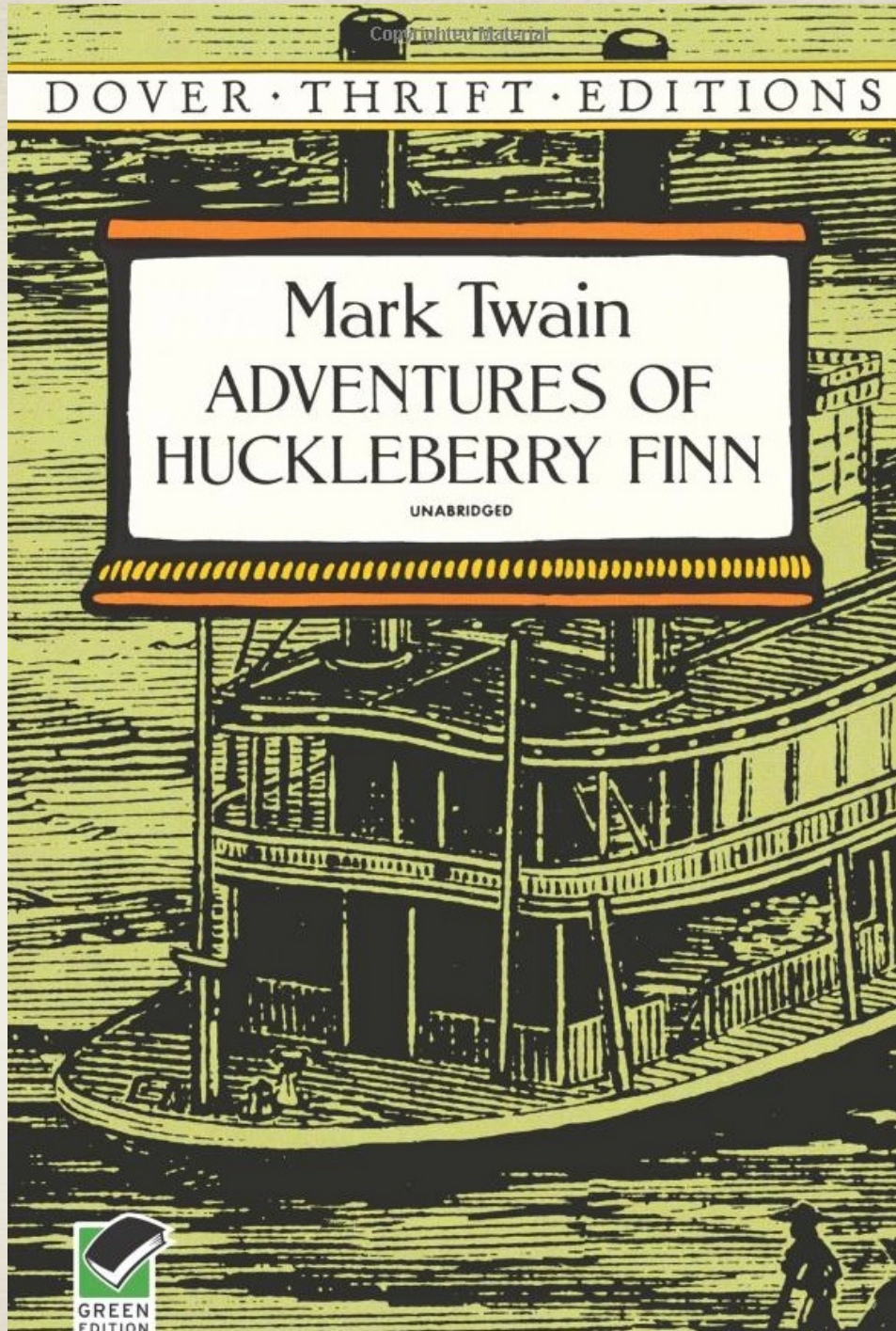
Mark Twain, The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn

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Mark Twain
ADVENTURES OF
HUCKLEBERRY FINN

UNABRIDGED



Ordinary Life

"All children, except one,
grow up."

James Barrie, Peter Pan



Ordinary Life

"It was a bright, cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."

George Orwell, 1984



George Orwell

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR



EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY

Ordinary Life

"A story has no beginning or end; arbitrarily one chooses the moment of experience from which to look back or from which to look ahead."

Graham Greene, *The End of the Affair*

THE END OF THE AFFAIR

GRAHAM GREENE

A FILM BY NEIL JORDAN STARRING

RALPH FIENNES

JULIANNE MOORE

STEPHEN REA

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE FROM
COLUMBIA PICTURES



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"It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York."

Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*

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50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

A NOVEL

The BELL JAR

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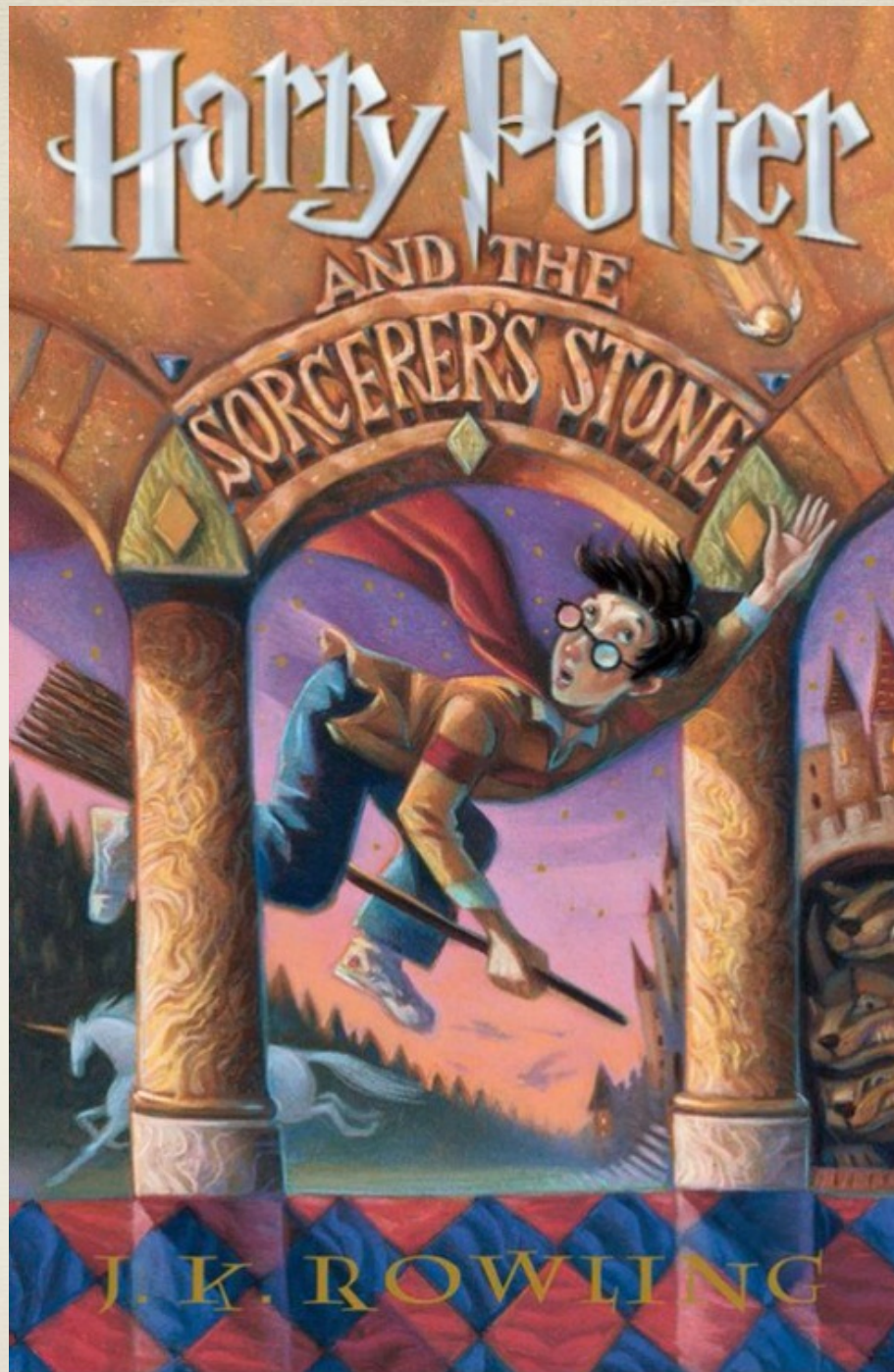
SYLVIA PLATH

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Ordinary Life

"Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four Privet Drive were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."

- J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone



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"I still remember when my father took me to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books for the first time."

- Carlos Ruiz Zafon, *The Shadow of the Wind*

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*THE
SHADOW
OF THE
WIND*



CARLOS RUIZ ZAFÓN

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Ordinary Life

"First the colors.

Then the humans.

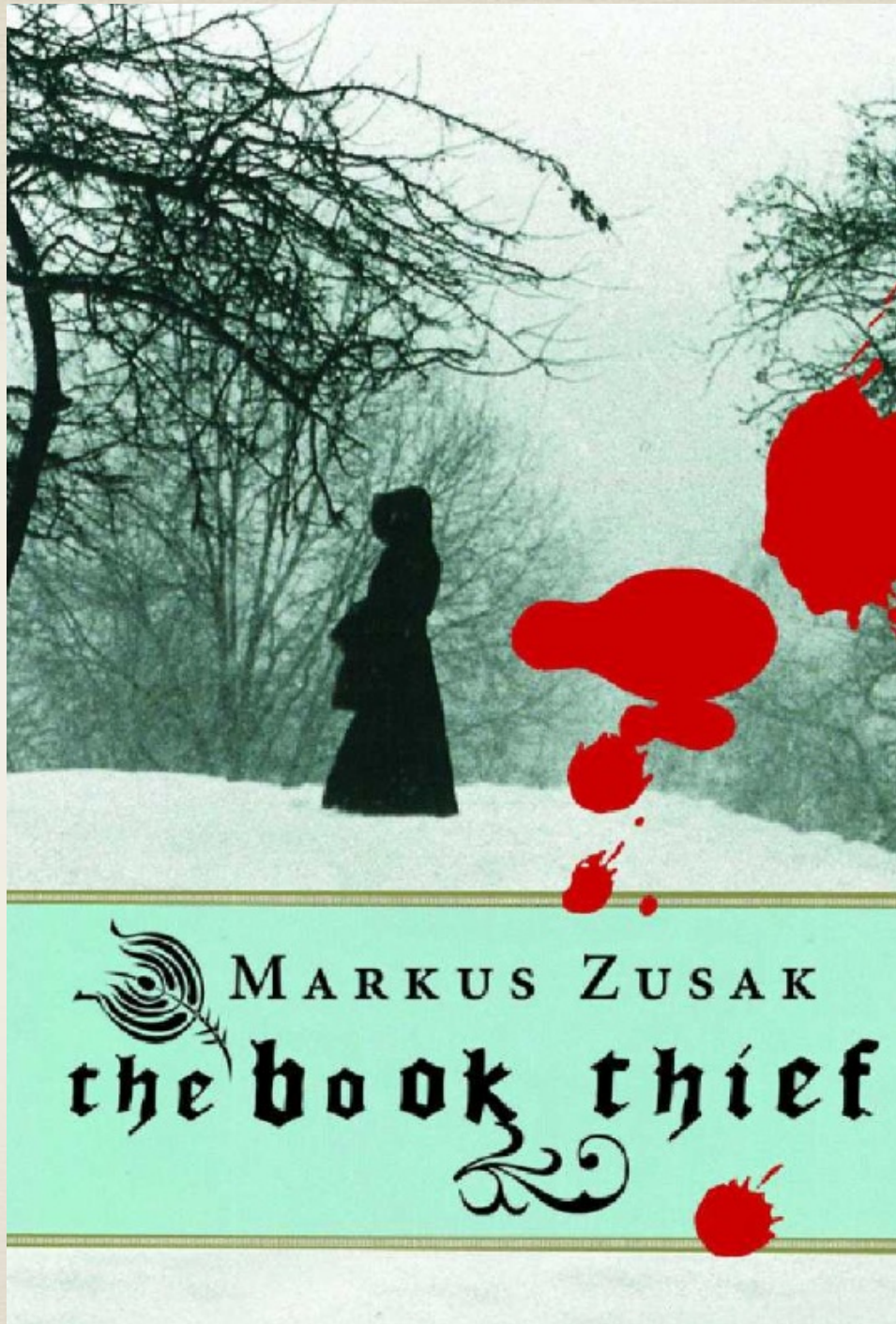
That's how I usually see things.

Or at least, how I try.

*** HERE IS A SMALL FACT ***

You are going to die.”

- Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*



Ordinary Life

“Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you . . .”

- The Gospel of Luke

2 KINGS 16:11

Saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest for its construction. 15 So Uriah the priest built an altar in accordance with all the plans that King Ahas had sent from Damascus and finished it before King Ahas returned. 16 When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings of grain and drink, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar. 17 The bronze altar that stood before the Lorn was brought from the new altar and put it on the temple - from between the new altar and the temple of the new altar.

18 King Ahas then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance." 19 And Uriah the priest did just as Ahas had ordered.

20 King Ahas took away the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. 21 He took away the Sabbath canopy that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside and removed the Lorn, in deference to the temple of Assyria.

22 As for the other events of the reign of Ahas, and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? 23 Ahas reigned with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Yerehiah his son succeeded him as king.

Hoshea Last King of Israel

17 In the twelfth year of Ahas king of Judah, Hoshea became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. 18 He did evil in the eyes of the Lorn, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

12 Or and used as
14 Or to him, to the, or possibly an abbreviation for Uriaah
15 Traditionally grain offerings
16 Or to him, to the, or possibly an abbreviation for Uriaah

19 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Shalmaneser's vassal and had paid him tribute. 20 But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So^a king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. 21 The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. 22 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Golan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.

Israel Deled Because of Sin

All this took place because the Israelites had rebelled against the Lorn their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods and followed the practices of the nations for which the Lorn had driven out before them, as well as the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced. 2 The Israelites secretly did things against the Lorn their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places in all their towns. 3 They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. 4 At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the Lorn had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things that provoked the Lorn to anger. 5 They worshipped idols, though the Lorn had said, "You shall not do this." 6 The Lorn warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers. 7 Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets. 8 But they would not listen, and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lorn their God. 9 They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless.

21 Or the date of his death (see Septuagint)
22 1 Kings 16:4, 5

18 They imitated the nations around them. 19 Although the Lorn had ordered them, "Do not do as they do," and they did not do so, the Lorn had forbidden them to do so.

20 They foresaw all the commands of the Lorn their God and made for themselves new idols cast in the shape of calves, and Asherah poles. They bowed down to all these things, and they worshipped Baal and the stars, and their sons and daughters sacrificed their sons and daughters to the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lorn, provoking him to anger.

21 So the Lorn was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lorn their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. 22 Therefore the Lorn rejected all the people of Israel and he afflicted them, and he thrust them from his presence.

23 When he tore Israel away from the tribe of Judah, he made Jeroboam son of Nebat their king. Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following the Lorn and caused them to commit a great sin. 24 The kingdom of Israel did not turn away from the practices which the kings of Israel had introduced, as he had warned through all his prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there.

Samarita Exiled

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the ruins of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns. 2 When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lorn; so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people. 3 It was reported to the king of Assyria: "The people you deported and resettled in the towns of that country do not know what the god of that country requires. He has sent lions among them, which are killing them off, because the people do not know what he requires."

21 Or They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire

4 Then the king of Assyria gave this order: "Have one of the priests who live there come from Samaria to live there and teach the people what the god of that land requires." 5 So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lorn.

6 Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shape of calves, and made altars where they worshipped the Lorn. The men from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men from Cuthah made Succoth Benoth, the men from Hamath made Ashima. 7 The Avvites made Nibhar and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 8 They worshipped the Lorn, but they also appointed all sorts of their own priests to officiate for them as priests in the shrines at the high places. 9 They worshipped the Lorn, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought.

10 To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the Lorn nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, that the Lorn made a covenant with the Israelites, whom he named Israel. 11 When the Lorn made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them: "Do not worship other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them." 12 But the Lorn, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. 13 You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that I have made with you. Do not worship other gods. 14 Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. 15 Rather, worship the Lorn your God, it is he who will drive you from the hands of all your enemies. 16 They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices. 17 Even while these people were worshipping the Lorn, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Part One

Ordinary Life

Cultural Osmosis

The religion of one's
youth

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novels

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THE DA VINCI CODE

FROM
THE AUTHOR OF
**ANGELS &
DEMONS**
NOW A
MAJOR MOTION
PICTURE



DAN BROWN

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Matthew's Story

Mary gets pregnant

Angel speaks to Joseph

Wise men go to a house in Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph live

Herod fears the worst and kills children

Joseph flees to Egypt

After Herod's death they return to Nazareth

Luke's Story

Angel makes announcements to Elizabeth and Mary

Augustus decrees a census

Joseph goes to Bethlehem

Mary gives birth in a stable

They stay in Bethlehem for circumcision and presentation

They return home to Nazareth

Ordinary Life

Why were these stories
important to Matthew and
Luke?

What kind of stories are
they?

Are these stories factually
true?

Or, are they fables?

How do we know what we
know?

What is true?

Google fields 40,000 searches per second.

Ordinary Life

FACT FUNDAMENTALISM

Ordinary Life

Mystery is infinitely knowable.

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What does the story mean?

Ordinary Life

Jesus told parables.
Jesus' followers told
parables about Jesus.

Who is really “King of the
Jews?”

Who brings peace on earth?

What is the light of the world?

Where do we find the fulfillment
of God’s dream for humanity?

No matter where you go this week, no matter what happens, remember this: you carry precious cargo. So, watch your step.

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