

the last temptation of

The Last Temptation of is a phrase that resonates deeply across literature, film, philosophy, and religious discourse. It encapsulates the universal struggle between desire and morality, temptation and virtue, human frailty and spiritual aspiration. Understanding this concept requires exploring its origins, interpretations, and implications in various contexts. This article delves into the multifaceted nature of "the last temptation of," examining its significance in cultural works, philosophical debates, and religious teachings.

Origins and Cultural Significance of the Phrase

Historical Roots

The phrase "the last temptation of" gained prominence through its association with the novel and film *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis and Martin Scorsese, respectively. The story explores the human side of Jesus Christ, focusing on his internal struggles and the temptations he faces before his crucifixion. The title emphasizes the final, most profound challenge—whether to succumb to human desires or to uphold divine purpose.

Evolution of the Phrase in Popular Culture

Over time, "the last temptation of" has become a metaphor for any final, decisive test of character. It is often used in literature, film, and psychology to describe situations where individuals face their ultimate moral or emotional challenge.

Thematic Analysis of "The Last Temptation of"

Temptation as a Universal Human Experience

Temptation is a fundamental aspect of human nature. It represents the allure of immediate gratification that conflicts with long-term goals or moral principles. The phrase suggests a pivotal moment where one must choose between:

1. Giving in to fleeting desires
2. Maintaining integrity and virtue

Final Test of Moral Resolve

The "last temptation" often symbolizes a final, decisive confrontation with one's deepest fears, doubts, or passions. It is typically depicted as the most intense and consequential trial, after which a person's true character is revealed.

Interpretations in Literature and Film

The Last Temptation of Christ

This novel and film explore Jesus's internal struggle with human desires, including family life, personal happiness, and divine mission. The narrative challenges traditional religious narratives by emphasizing Jesus's humanity, making his final temptation a metaphor for the universal human experience of doubt and longing.

- Questioning divine purpose
- Exploring human vulnerabilities
- Challenging dogmatic beliefs

Other Cultural Works

The concept extends beyond religious contexts into various stories where protagonists face their ultimate moral dilemmas:

- Literature: Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* examines moral temptation and redemption.
- Film: Movies like *The Godfather* portray characters resisting or succumbing to temptation in pursuit of power.
- Philosophy: Discussions on free will and moral choice often frame temptation as the final hurdle in ethical decision-making.

Philosophical and Religious Perspectives

Philosophical Viewpoints

Philosophers have long debated the nature of temptation and moral choice:

- **Existentialism:** Emphasizes individual responsibility in confronting temptation as a defining aspect of authentic existence.
- **Utilitarianism:** Considers whether giving in to temptation maximizes happiness or causes harm.
- **Virtue Ethics:** Focuses on cultivating character traits that withstand temptation.

Religious Teachings

Most religious traditions acknowledge temptation as a test of faith and character:

- **Christianity:** The Bible discusses Jesus's temptations in the desert and emphasizes resisting evil.
- **Islam:** The Quran depicts Satan's temptations and stresses steadfastness in faith.
- **Hinduism and Buddhism:** Teach the importance of self-control and overcoming desires to attain spiritual liberation.

Psychological Insights into Temptation

The Human Mind and Temptation

Psychology explores how temptation influences behavior:

1. **Impulse Control:** The ability to delay gratification is central to resisting temptation.
2. **Temptation and Self-Identity:** Facing temptation often reveals core aspects of one's self-concept.

3. **Stress and Temptation:** Stress can weaken resolve, increasing susceptibility.

Strategies to Overcome Temptation

Research suggests several effective methods:

- Developing strong willpower through practice
- Creating supportive environments that minimize temptation
- Engaging in mindfulness and self-awareness techniques
- Setting clear goals and maintaining focus on long-term benefits

Modern Relevance and Personal Reflection

Temptation in Contemporary Society

In today's fast-paced, media-rich environment, temptations are more pervasive than ever:

- Consumerism and material desires
- Digital temptations like social media and gaming
- Ethical dilemmas in technology and business

Personal Development and Navigating Temptation

Understanding and confronting one's last temptations can lead to personal growth:

- Identifying personal weaknesses
- Building resilience and moral courage

- Aligning actions with core values

Conclusion

The phrase "the last temptation of" encapsulates a profound aspect of the human condition—the ongoing internal battle between desire and morality. Whether viewed through religious, philosophical, literary, or psychological lenses, it highlights the pivotal moments that define our character and destiny. Recognizing that everyone faces their own last temptations empowers individuals to cultivate strength, integrity, and self-awareness. As society continues to evolve, understanding the nature of temptation remains essential for personal fulfillment and ethical living. Embracing this challenge ultimately leads to a deeper understanding of oneself and the pursuit of a meaningful life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Last Temptation of Christ' about?

'The Last Temptation of Christ' is a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, later adapted into a film by Martin Scorsese, that explores the human and divine aspects of Jesus Christ, imagining his inner struggles and temptations during his life.

Why was 'The Last Temptation of Christ' controversial?

The work was controversial because it portrayed Jesus in a humanized way, depicting him experiencing doubt, temptation, and internal conflict, which challenged traditional religious narratives and sparked debates about faith and artistic freedom.

Who directed the film adaptation of 'The Last Temptation of Christ'?

Martin Scorsese directed the film adaptation released in 1988.

How does 'The Last Temptation of Christ' differ from traditional biblical accounts?

The story offers a fictionalized and psychological exploration of Jesus's inner life, including imagined temptations and doubts, which are not present in the canonical Gospels.

What are some of the main themes in 'The Last Temptation of Christ'?

Key themes include faith and doubt, human suffering, divine purpose, temptation, and the struggle between flesh and spirit.

Has 'The Last Temptation of Christ' faced censorship or bans?

Yes, both the novel and the film faced censorship, protests, and bans in some countries due to their sensitive religious content.

What inspired Nikos Kazantzakis to write 'The Last Temptation of Christ'?

Kazantzakis was inspired by his interest in the human aspects of religious figures and his desire to explore the spiritual and psychological struggles of Jesus.

Is 'The Last Temptation of Christ' considered a religious or a secular work?

It is generally considered a secular work of literature and film that explores religious themes through a humanized lens, rather than a strictly religious text.

How has 'The Last Temptation of Christ' influenced modern discussions on faith and art?

'The Last Temptation of Christ' has sparked ongoing debates about artistic expression, religious sensitivities, and the portrayal of sacred figures in popular culture.

Where can I watch or read 'The Last Temptation of Christ'?

The novel is available in bookstores and online retailers, and the film can often be found on streaming platforms or through DVD/Blu-ray purchases.

Additional Resources

The Last Temptation: An In-Depth Exploration of Its Artistic and Cultural Significance

Introduction

When discussing provocative art and film that challenge societal norms, *The Last Temptation* invariably emerges as a landmark. Directed by Martin Scorsese and based on the novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, this 1988 film has been both lauded and criticized for its daring portrayal of religious themes, human desire, and spiritual struggle. As a product that straddles the line between artistic expression and controversial subject matter, *The Last Temptation* warrants an in-depth review that examines its thematic complexity, cinematic craftsmanship, cultural impact, and ongoing relevance.

Background and Context

Origins and Adaptation

The Last Temptation of Christ originated as a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis in 1955. The book was revolutionary in its portrayal of Jesus Christ as a fully human figure, grappling with doubt, fear, and temptation—elements often sanitized or glossed over in traditional religious narratives. The novel's controversial nature led to bans and censorship in various countries, setting the stage for a film adaptation that would push boundaries further.

Martin Scorsese, known for his gritty and intense films, took on the project with a clear intention: to explore the human side of Christ, emphasizing his internal struggles rather than solely his divine mission. The film's production faced intense scrutiny from religious groups, leading to protests and calls for censorship, but ultimately it was released to critical acclaim and a divided audience.

Cultural and Religious Sensitivities

The film's subject matter—depicting Jesus experiencing doubts, fantasies, and temptations—struck a nerve with many faith communities. Some viewed it as a blasphemous reinterpretation, while others appreciated its attempt to humanize a divine figure. The film's provocative approach ignited debates about artistic freedom, religious representation, and the boundaries of creative expression.

Thematic Analysis

Portrayal of Humanity and Divinity

The Last Temptation delves deep into the dichotomy between divine omnipotence and human vulnerability. By portraying Jesus as a man plagued by fears, desires, and moral dilemmas, the film emphasizes the universality of human experience. This approach invites viewers to reflect on the nature of faith, sacrifice, and the moral struggles inherent in the human condition.

Key themes include:

- **Temptation and Desire:** Jesus faces temptations not only in the wilderness but throughout his life—sexual, emotional, and spiritual. The film explores how these desires conflict with his divine mission.
- **Doubt and Faith:** The narrative presents Jesus as questioning his purpose, highlighting that doubt is an integral part of faith rather than its antithesis.
- **Sacrifice and Humanity:** The film portrays Jesus' internal conflicts leading to his ultimate sacrifice, emphasizing the human cost of divine commitment.

The "Last Temptation" as a Metaphor

The title refers to the temptation Jesus faces in the form of a fantasy where he chooses a normal, earthly life over his divine mission. This metaphor symbolizes the universal human struggle between worldly desires and higher calling, making the story relatable beyond religious contexts.

Cinematic Craftsmanship

Direction and Visual Aesthetics

Martin Scorsese's direction is characterized by a meticulous attention to visual storytelling. The film employs a mix of surreal imagery, stark realism, and symbolic motifs to evoke emotional depth and spiritual ambiguity.

- **Cinematography:** The film's cinematography by Michael Ballhaus employs warm earth tones and contrasting lighting to symbolize the tension between the divine and the mortal. Dream sequences are shot with a softer focus, creating a dreamlike atmosphere that underscores internal conflict.
- **Symbolism:** Scorsese integrates religious symbols—such as crosses, water, and light—subtly woven into scenes to reinforce themes. The use of shadows and light often reflects characters' moral struggles.

Performances and Casting

- Willem Dafoe delivers a compelling portrayal of Jesus, blending vulnerability with strength. His nuanced performance captures the internal turmoil and human frailty that define his character.
- Harvey Keitel as Judas Iscariot offers a layered depiction, emphasizing his conflicted loyalty and complex relationship with Jesus.
- David Bowie appears as Pontius Pilate, adding an unexpected yet striking dimension to the film.

Sound and Music

The soundtrack, composed by Peter Gabriel, features haunting melodies and evocative lyrics that complement the film's spiritual themes. The music enhances the emotional resonance of key scenes, from moments of doubt to scenes of divine revelation.

Controversies and Reception

Initial Reception

Upon release, *The Last Temptation* received polarized reviews. Critics praised its boldness, depth, and artistic merit, with some calling it a masterpiece of religious cinema. However, conservative religious groups condemned it as sacrilegious, leading to protests, bans in some countries, and calls for censorship.

Ongoing Debates

The controversy surrounding the film remains relevant today, serving as a case study in the tension between artistic freedom and religious sensitivities. Supporters argue that the film offers a humanized and honest portrayal of a religious figure, encouraging viewers to reconsider dogma and embrace doubt as part of faith.

Critical Acclaim and Legacy

Despite the initial backlash, *The Last Temptation* has been reassessed by critics and scholars as a profound exploration of spirituality and human nature. It has influenced subsequent films that tackle religious themes with nuance and complexity.

Cultural Impact and Significance

Influence on Religious Cinema

The Last Temptation challenged the conventions of religious filmmaking, demonstrating that spiritual stories could be told with honesty, vulnerability, and artistic integrity. Its success paved the way for more nuanced portrayals of religious figures and themes in cinema.

Philosophical and Theological Implications

The film invites viewers to reflect on:

- The nature of faith and doubt
- The humanization of divine figures

- The moral dilemmas faced by individuals in positions of spiritual authority
- The universality of temptation and moral struggle

Legacy in Popular Culture

The film's provocative content has cemented its place in pop culture discussions about religion, art, and censorship. It remains a reference point in debates about religious representation in media and the power of cinema to challenge societal norms.

Conclusion: Is It Worth Watching?

The Last Temptation stands out as a daring, thought-provoking work that pushes the boundaries of conventional religious storytelling. Its artistic achievements, layered performances, and thematic depth make it a must-watch for those interested in cinema's capacity to explore complex human and spiritual issues.

While it may not be suitable for all audiences—particularly those seeking traditional depictions of religious figures—it offers an invaluable perspective on the human side of faith, doubt, and temptation. As an expert review, I would say that The Last Temptation is a quintessential example of cinema as a mirror to human vulnerability and moral complexity, deserving of its place in the pantheon of influential, controversial, and thought-provoking films.

Final Thoughts

Whether viewed as a work of art, a religious commentary, or a cultural flashpoint, The Last Temptation remains a powerful film that challenges viewers to consider the multifaceted nature of faith and human desire. It exemplifies how cinema can serve as a medium for profound philosophical inquiry, encouraging us to confront our own temptations and doubts in the pursuit of understanding and compassion.

[The Last Temptation Of](#)

the last temptation of: The Last Temptation of Christ Nikos Kazantzakis, 2012-03-20 The internationally renowned novel about the life and death of Jesus Christ. Hailed as a masterpiece by critics worldwide, The Last Temptation of Christ is a monumental reinterpretation of the Gospels that brilliantly fleshes out Christ's Passion. This literary rendering of the life of Jesus Christ has courted controversy since its publication by depicting a Christ far more human than the one seen in the Bible. He is a figure who is gloriously divine but earthy and human, a man like any other—subject to fear, doubt, and pain. In elegant, thoughtful prose Nikos Kazantzakis, one of the

greats of modern literature, follows this Jesus as he struggles to live out God's will for him, powerfully suggesting that it was Christ's ultimate triumph over his flawed humanity, when he gave up the temptation to run from the cross and willingly laid down his life for mankind, that truly made him the venerable redeemer of men. "Spiritual dynamite." —San Francisco Chronicle "A searing, soaring, shocking novel." —Time

the last temptation of: The Last Temptation of Bond Kimmy Beach, 2013-08-15 you can't stop it. everyone's expendable, James. everyone's replaceable. even you. especially you. In a penetrating, violent, sexy, and often hilarious apocalypse, a world-famous superspy meets his demise at the hands of an audacious, painstaking poet. Kimmy Beach fuses popular culture and narrative poetry to astonishing effect in this, her fifth book. Feasting on the tropes, traps, and types of the James Bond mythos and doubling back on the incendiary narrative of Nikos Kazantzakis' *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Beach and her cast of loved-and-left Bond Girls dismantle the man and his mysteries. Fans of Beach's tenacious poetry and readers seeking redemption in explosive narrative and fearless wit will love *The Last Temptation of Bond*.

the last temptation of: *The Last Temptation of Christ* David Calderwood, 1962 Argues that the book, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, be removed from the shelves of the Santa Ana, California, public library.

the last temptation of: Martin Scorsese Mary Pat Kelly, 2022-10-25 In time for Scorsese's 80th birthday and the release of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, a new edition of the seminal oral history tracing Scorsese's journey from young filmmaker to legend, featuring a foreword by Steven Spielberg Few filmmakers, if any, make the kind of impact that Martin Scorsese has made on American cinema. The winner of every prestigious film award, including the Oscar, Scorsese is a living legend. Bestselling author and award-winning filmmaker Mary Pat Kelly's groundbreaking biography reveals how this working-class boy from Manhattan's Little Italy became one of our most acclaimed, celebrated, and influential filmmakers. *Martin Scorsese: A Journey* maps Scorsese's personal and artistic evolution through his films, from early works like student films and *Mean Streets* through cinematic masterpieces like *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, *The King of Comedy*, *Goodfellas*. Across interviews with Scorsese himself; stars like Robert De Niro, Paul Newman, Liza Minelli, and Nick Nolte; colleagues including screenwriters and cinematographers; as well as family and friends, it reveals the story of a man in a way that only his community and fellow artists can, giving us unprecedented, intimate access to the making of these iconic films and the extraordinary mind behind them. Brimming with insight into Scorsese's life, values, process, humor, and inspirations, it is a remarkable account of America's premiere director, the shepherd of countless imaginations.

the last temptation of: Scandalizing Jesus? Darren J. N. Middleton, 2005-11-03 2005 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Nikos Kazantzakis' *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Since Kazantzakis ranks as one of the twentieth century's most important European writers, and given that this particular work of his has garnered so much publicity, this collection of essays re-assesses the novel, though not forgetting the movie, in light of one half century's worth of criticism and reception history. Clergy and laity alike have denounced this novel. When it first appeared, the Greek Orthodox Church condemned it, the Vatican placed it on its Index of Forbidden Texts, and conservative-evangelicals around the world protested its allegedly blasphemous portrayal of a human, struggling Messiah who succumbs to the devil's final snare while on the Cross: the temptation to happiness. Assuredly, the sentiments surrounding this novel, at least in the first thirty years or so, were very strong. When Martin Scorsese decided in the early 1980s to adapt the novel for the silver screen, even stronger feelings were expressed. Even today his works are seldom studied in Greece, largely because the Greek government is unable or unwilling to anthologize his material for the national curriculum. After fifty years, however, the time seems right to re-examine the novel, the man, and the film, locating Kazantzakis and his work within an important debate about the relationship between religion and art (literary and cinematic). Until now a book-length assessment of Kazantzakis' novel, and the film it inspired, has not appeared. No such volume is planned to commemorate the fiftieth

anniversary of the novel's publication. For those who work in Kazantzakis studies, a focused anthology like this one is missing from library collections. The volume contains original essays by Martin Scorsese, the film critic Peter Chattaway, and Kazantzakis' translator, Peter A. Bien.

the last temptation of: Novel Theology Darren J. N. Middleton, 2000 Literature and theology constantly (de)construct each other. Suggesting that this (de)constructive assignment is one that cannot but be in process itself, Middleton returns to it throughout his study..

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the last temptation of: The Last Supper Paul Elie, 2025-05-27 This enthralling group portrait brings to life a moment when popular culture became the site of religious strife—strife that set the stage for some of the most salient political and cultural clashes of our day. Circa 1980, tradition and authority are in the ascendant, both in Catholicism (via Pope John Paul II) and in American civic life (through the Moral Majority and the so-called televangelists). But the public is deeply divided on issues of body and soul, devotion and desire. Enter the figures Paul Elie calls “cryptoreligious.” Here is Leonard Cohen writing “Hallelujah” on his knees in a Times Square hotel room; Andy Warhol adapting Leonardo’s *The Last Supper* in response to the AIDS pandemic; Prince making the cross and altar into “signs o’ the times.” Through Toni Morrison, spirits speak from the grave; Patti Smith and Bruce Springsteen deepen the tent-revival intensity of their work; Wim Wenders offers an angel’s-eye view of Berlin; U2, the Neville Brothers, and Sinéad O’Connor reckon with their Christian roots in music of mystic yearning. And Martin Scorsese overcomes fundamentalist ire to make *The Last Temptation of Christ*—a struggle that anticipates Salman Rushdie’s struggle with Islam in *The Satanic Verses*. In Elie’s acclaimed first book, *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*, Catholic writers ventured out into the wilds of postwar America; in this book, creative figures who were raised religious go to the margins of conventional belief, calling forth controversy. Episodes such as the boycott sparked by Madonna’s “Like a Prayer” video and the tearing-up of Andres Serrano’s *Piss Christ* in Congress are early skirmishes in the culture wars—but here the creators (not the politicians) are the protagonists, and the work they make speaks to conflicts that remain unsettled. *The Last Supper* explores the bold and unexpected forms an encounter with belief can take. It traces the beginnings of our postsecular age, in which religion is at once surging and in decline. Through a propulsive narrative, it reveals the crypto-religious imagination as complex, credible, daring, and vividly recognizable.

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the last temptation of: The Intimate Way of Zen James Ishmael Ford, 2024-07-23 An

intimate mystery encompasses you and tugs upon your heart—what does it mean to follow that tug across the arc of a spiritual life? Reflecting out of more than fifty years of practice in Zen Buddhism, Unitarian Universalism, and other contemplative traditions, James Ishmael Ford invites us into a journey through life's mysteries and the stages of spiritual development. Lightly structured by the archetypal Buddhist oxherding images, Ford's exploration is rooted in the Zen way while being deeply enriched by various strains of world mysticism. The book, sprinkled with insights and quotes from Buddhist, Daoist, and Christian traditions, serves as a map and a companion to spiritual seekers or pilgrims—whether within one religious tradition or cobbling together a way of one's own. "Here is the most natural of all natural experiences," writes Ford. "In the midst of our suffering, our longing, our desperation, we capture a glimpse. Something touches us. And with that, if we are lucky and really notice some movement of some spirit within us, we turn our attention to the intimate way."

the last temptation of: *The X-Files and Literature* Sharon R. Yang, 2009-10-02 *The X-Files and Literature: Unweaving the Story, Unraveling the Lie to find the Truth* provides an innovative and valuable exploration of the groundbreaking television program. Although much academic work has been devoted to the social, psychological, and spiritual significance of *The X-Files*, until this collection none has fully addressed the series' rich adaptation of literature to interrogate our perception, definition, or recounting of the "truth." This collection not only unveils new twists and insights into expected connections between *The X-Files* and Gothic writers or with its modernist and post-modernist slants on narrative, plot, and characterization. *The X-Files and Literature* also delves into some unexpected literary sources shaping the series, such as the Arthurian quest, Catholic and Biblical mythology, folkloristics, and James Fennimore Cooper and the "vanishing American" mythos. This collection of essays covers both how *The X-Files* works with literature's own constantly morphing definition and portrayal of truth through form and content, as well as how the television program may or may not subvert our own contradictory expectations and distrust of literature's providing us with enlightenment. As television becomes more and more literary, with shows like *Lost* and *Gilmore Girls* sending us off to the bookstore and the library so we might read them more carefully, a book like *The X-Files and Literature* is welcome indeed. Sharon R. Yang's diverse collection on one of Nineties' TV's richest texts finds the truth of the gothic and the Arthurian and the folkloric, of the postmodern and the metafictional, of Poe, Pynchon, Cooper, Nabokov, and Tennyson, not just "out there" but in the perhaps too complicated narrative of the perpetually frustrated quests of Mulder and Scully. Valuable-in-itself as an intellectual exercise, its real worth may come when we put the book down and return, smarter, better readers, to the primary text. --David Lavery, Co-Editor, *Deny All Knowledge: Investigating The X-Files* Sharon Yang's *X-Files* collection deals with an important subject addressed by thoughtful writers. The idea that television can be seen as a branch of literature is certainly sustained by *The X-Files*, and the contributors to this volume succeed in making the case. Brian Hauser on Fenimore Cooper, Cary Jones on Mary Shelley, Tamy Burnett on Poe, Thomas Argiro on Pynchon, Matthew VanWinkle on Tennyson—these and more explore the connections with *The X-Files* not only in terms of sources but also themes and techniques. Both students of television and literature will want to own this book. —Rhonda V. Wilcox, Ph.D., Professor of English, Gordon College, Barnesville

the last temptation of: *The Films of Martin Scorsese, 1978-99* L. Grist, 2013-01-30 A detailed, theoretically attuned analysis of all of the Scorsese-directed features from *The Last Waltz* to *Bringing Out the Dead*. Grist illuminates Scorsese's authorship, but also reflects back upon a range of informing contexts.

the last temptation of: *Christianity and the Culture Machine* Vincent F. Rocchio, 2016-08-05 *Christianity and the Culture Machine* is a precedent-shattering approach to combining theories of media and culture with theology. In this intensive examination of Christianity's role in the cultural marketplace, the author argues that Christianity's inability to effectively contest the ideology of secular humanism is not a theological shortcoming, but rather a communications problem: the institutional church is too wedded to an outmoded aesthetic of Christianity to communicate

effectively. Privileging authority and obedience over the egalitarian and transformative goal of Christianity, the church fails to recognize how it undermines the vitality of the Christian narrative and message. In the absence of a more compelling vision offered by the official church, a new aesthetic can be found forming within the margins of popular culture texts. Despite its past failures in representing the Bible in mainstream film and television, the culture industry now offers more compelling versions of core Christian theology without even realizing it--within the margins of the main storylines. This book analyzes the aesthetic principles employed by these appropriations and articulations of Christian discourse as a means of theorizing what a new aesthetic of Christianity might look like.

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the last temptation of: *Jesus and Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ* Kathleen E. Corley, Robert L. Webb, 2004-08-25 An exciting and engaging book that will appeal not only to academics but to the film-viewing public, educated lay-persons and students. Not only will the book aid this audience in a greater appreciation of the film 'The Passion of the Christ' but perhaps more importantly it will enable the reader to distinguish between both the contents of the film and the contents of the Gospels and between the contents of the film and what may be historically reconstructed about Jesus. Furthermore the book will aid the reader to appreciate the contributions that the study of the Gospels and the historical study of Jesus can make to the discussion of the film 'The Passion of the Christ'. Jesus and Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ is edited by Kathleen E. Corley, Oshkosh Northwestern Distinguished Professor and Professor of New Testament at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Robert L. Webb, an independent scholar living near Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The other contributors are: Dr. John Dominic Crossan, Professor Emeritus of religious Studies at DePaul University, Illinois. Dr. Helen K. Bond, Lecturer in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology at New College, University of Edinburgh, UK; Dr. Craig A. Evans, Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College, Nova Scotia, Canada; Dr Mark Goodacre, Senior Lecturer in New Testament at the Department of Theology, University of Birmingham, UK; Dr. Glenna S. Jackson, Associate Professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio; Dr. Scot McKnight, Karl A. Olsson Professor in Religious Studies at North Park University, Chicago, Illinois; Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio; Alan F. Segal, Professor of Religion and Ingeborg Rennert Professor of Jewish Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University, New York; Dr. W. Barnes Tatum, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Greensboro College, North Carolina; David J. Goa, Curator Emeritus at the Provincial Museum of Alberta and a Fellow of the M.V. Dimic Institute for the Study of Culture at the University of Alberta.

the last temptation of: *T&T Clark Handbook of Jesus and Film* Richard Walsh, 2021-01-14 The T&T Clark Handbook of Jesus and Film introduces postgraduate readers to the critical field of Jesus and/on film. The bulk of biblical films feature Jesus, as protagonist, in cameo, or as a looming background presence or pattern. The handbook assesses the field in light of the work of important biblical film critics including chapters from the leading voices in the field and showcasing the diversity of work done by scholars in the field. Movies discussed include The Passion of the Christ, The King of Kings, Jesus of Nazareth, Monty Python's Life of Brian, Son of Man, and Mary

Magdalene. The chapters range across two broad areas: 1) Jesus films, understood broadly as filmed passion plays, other relocations of Jesus, historical Jesus treatments, and Jesus adjacent cinema (privileging invented characters or “minor” gospel characters); and 2) other cinematic Jesuses, including followers who imitate Jesus devotionally or aesthetically, (Christian) Christ figures, antichrists, yet other messiahs, and competing Jesuses in a pluralist world. As one leaves the confines of Christian theology, the question of what a film or interpreter is doing with Jesus or Christ becomes something to be determined, not necessarily something traditional.

the last temptation of: A War for the Soul of America Andrew Hartman, 2019-04-26 The “unrivaled” history of America’s divided politics, now in a fully updated edition that examines the rise of Trump—and what comes next (New Republic). When it was published in 2015, Andrew Hartman’s history of the culture wars was widely praised for its compelling and even-handed account of how they came to define American politics at the close of the twentieth century. But it also garnered attention for Hartman’s declaration that the culture wars were over—and that the left had won. In the wake of Trump’s rise, driven by an aggressive fanning of those culture war flames, Hartman has brought *A War for the Soul of America* fully up to date, detailing the ways in which Trump’s success, while undeniable, represents the last gasp of culture war politics—and how the reaction he has elicited can show us early signs of the very different politics to come. “As a guide to the late twentieth-century culture wars, Hartman is unrivalled . . . Incisive portraits of individual players in the culture wars dramas . . . Reading Hartman sometimes feels like debriefing with friends after a raucous night out, an experience punctuated by laughter, head-scratching, and moments of regret for the excesses involved.” —New Republic

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the last temptation of: The Bible and Popular Culture Ole Jakob Løland, Anders Martinsen, 2025-07-08 This book is an accessible overview of the Bible’s complex and evolving reception in popular culture. Drawing on biblical interpretations in TV, film, and music, it demonstrates the enduring diversity of the Bible’s reception history. Ranging from Genesis and Exodus of the Hebrew Bible to the Gospels and Revelation of the New Testament, its biblical chronology takes a book-by-book format that locates and examines various examples of how these texts have been read, received, and interpreted. Case studies include *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, *The Da Vinci Code*, and *Family Guy*. Woven within these chapters is fresh analysis of how themes of parody, satire, sex, and conspiracy appear in these biblical interpretations. This book is an engaging resource for students encountering biblical reception history in popular culture for the first time, and it will also be of wider interest to those intrigued by the interplay between religion, culture, and media.

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