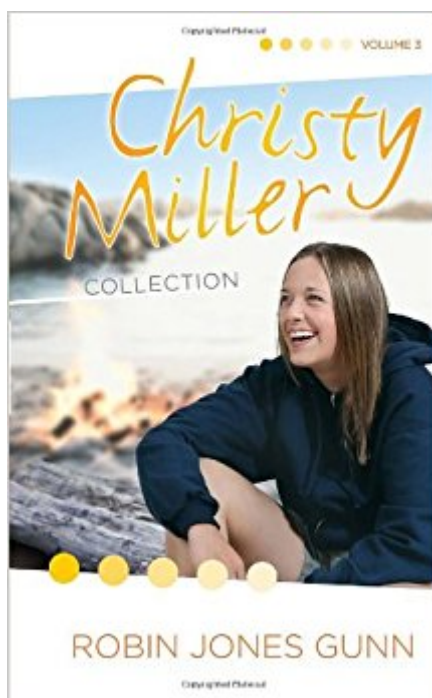


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# The Christy Miller Collection, Vol. 3: True Friends / Starry Night / Seventeen Wishes (Books 7-9)



## Synopsis

The first nine books in the popular Christy Miller series are now available in three treasured volumes! Bestselling author Robin Jones Gunn packs each one with enough action, romance, and drama to keep you reading and wanting more. It all starts the summer Christy vacations on a California beach and meets two friends who change her life forever. But after moving across the country with her family, Christy must begin her sophomore year of high school uncertain where she'll fit in. A red-headed new best friend, a try at cheerleading, a job at a pet store, and expectations for the prom fill Christy's high school years with a string of laughter-and-tears moments. Fireball Katie keeps everyone guessing what she'll do next, and surfer Todd keeps showing up while popular Rick has determined to get her full attention! As these memorable years unfold, Christy and her God-loving friends find out what it means to be a "peculiar treasure." • Follow Christy Miller as she stays true to her identity in Christ, drawing closer to God for help in realizing her dreams and dealing with her disappointments. Whether you're meeting her for the first time or have known her for years • Christy Is a Forever Friend True Friends What is a true friend? Christy Miller knows she has two of them: Todd and Katie. To show how much she appreciates them, she writes to Todd, who's off surfing in Hawaii, and she agrees to join the ski club with Katie—even though she's scared of skiing! Fortunately, Christy and Katie can laugh as they bumble their way around the bunny slopes at Lake Tahoe. But Christy finds herself caught between new friends and her loyalty to Katie. Will Christy find a way to be a true friend when it counts most? And will she ever hear from Todd? Starry Night It's Christmastime, and Christy Miller has so much going on: family time, work, and maybe, just maybe, going to the Rose Bowl Parade with a bunch of friends. If only she could answer Uncle Bob's tough questions. Todd's buddy Doug gives her some insight, and she starts to appreciate him in a whole new way. Rick Doyle shows up again...but is he pursuing Christy or the cutest elf at the mall? Through it all, will Christy find someone special to count the stars with? Seventeen Wishes It's summer, and that means the beach and other adventures. And Christy Miller's best friend, Katie, is always full of ideas. They'll be camp counselors! But when Katie can't go, Christy is bewildered and overwhelmed by her fifth-grade girls, who have boundless energy for anything except what Christy wants them to do. Do they even hear a word she says? Soon they're playing matchmaker between Christy and Jaeson, a handsome counselor...and he doesn't seem to mind. When Christy's seventeenth birthday arrives later in the summer, just what will she be wishing for? Story Behind the Book "The Christy Miller series was actually born when a group of thirteen-year-olds

challenged me to write a novel. I'd been questioning the content of their favorite books when they said, "Why don't you write a book for us?" I told them no, I only wrote picture books. But they persisted: "How hard could it be? We'll even tell you what to write! We want a love story with teenagers at the beach." And there you go. Summer Promise first released seventeen years ago and is now translated into five languages. I continue to hear from readers all over the world, many girls saying that they gave their life to Christ after reading Summer Promise. I love that!

•Robin Jones Gunn

## Book Information

Hardcover: 480 pages

Publisher: Multnomah Publishers (March 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590525868

ISBN-13: 978-1590525869

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #273,629 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Friendship #14 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Social Issues #20 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Friendship

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Robin Jones Gunn is the bestselling, award-winning author of sixty books with 2.75 million copies sold worldwide. She began writing novels for teens, including the Christy Miller series, after serving in full-time youth ministry for over twenty years with her husband, Ross. She has taught at writers' conferences and been a guest speaker for a variety of groups in settings from Hawaii to Helsinki. Robin and Ross have been married for twenty-eight years and have a grown son and daughter. They live near Portland, Oregon.

"Over the years many people have given their opinions on friendship. I would like this class to work off the handout I've given you and write a three-page essay. Begin with the phrase,

A true friend is. You may use the rest of the class time to work on it. Any questions?

Sixteen-year-old Christy Miller glanced across her English class and noticed that her friend Katie had her hand up.

"Is it okay if we use some of the quotes from the list?" Katie's red hair swished as she tilted her head.

"Of course you may. Now, no talking. This is project time."

Christy adjusted her long legs under the desk and studied the handout. The page was full of quotes from people like Constantine and Aristotle. She smiled when she read what Charles Dickens had to say about friends: "Friendship? Yes, please."

Taking out a fresh sheet of paper, she wrote at the top of the page, A true friend is

Only one word came to mind: Todd. That was not the word she was looking for. Christy pushed the thought aside and scolded herself. Come on, you have lots of friends. What are you doing thinking of Todd? He's not even part of your life anymore. Think, think, think. What is a true friend? She began to write. A true friend is someone who sticks up for you and

Todd, her mind said again. and they always look for the best in you. A true friend likes you even when you don't like yourself very much. Then, without meaning to, she wrote, My true friend is Todd Spencer. There. She finally admitted it to herself. By writing it down, it was as if she admitted to the world that Todd was her true friend. How did Todd say it almost a year ago when he placed the engraved "Forever ID bracelet on her wrist? Here's my friendship; I promise it to you. It's yours forever. Christy thought of how Todd had backed up that statement about two months ago. It was morning on a deserted beach. The night before, without really wanting to, Christy had agreed to start going out with Rick Doyle. There she was, in the early morning California fog, trying to explain it to Todd. Christy tried to give back the bracelet, but Todd wouldn't take it.

"No matter what happens," he said, "we're going to be friends forever."

Then he announced that he was going to Hawaii to try out for the world-tour surfing team. She hadn't heard from him since. Christy drew a tiny heart in the corner of her paper and let memories of Todd fill her mind. Each memory prompted a little doodle. Soon the margins danced with sketches of a tandem bike, a picnic basket with seagulls circling over it, a bouquet of carnations, an old Volkswagen bus, and down the entire right side of her page, a waterfall crowned with a bridge across the top. The shrill bell jolted her back to her Friday morning English class. Snapping her notebook shut, Christy grabbed her books and waited at the door for Katie.

"Did you get yours done?" Katie asked, her green eyes sparkling as though she had a secret.

"Not really."

Christy pushed back her nutmeg-brown hair. The new shampoo she had used on it last night made it too silky, and it kept falling in her face today, driving her crazy.

"Did you?"

"Almost," Katie

said as they walked down the noisy hallway. "Who did you write about?" "Well, I didn't come up with anything final yet. I guess I'm going to have to work on it this weekend." "I wrote about the person I consider to be my truest friend in the whole world." Katie's eyes kept twinkling. "I want you to read it, but not until I'm finished." A horrible feeling hit Christy. Katie was acting like she wrote about me! Like I'm her best friend. Katie has been a true friend to me, and I've taken her for granted. By lunchtime, Christy had formed a plan. She wanted to do something that would let Katie know how much she appreciated her. They met at their usual spot outdoors. Kelley High was an older school, and their cafeteria was small and tended to be dominated by the freshmen. Most of the upperclassmen went off campus for lunch. Christy and Katie had gotten into the routine of bringing sack lunches and meeting on the grass under one of the large shade trees. Being able to eat outside most of the year was one of the things Christy liked best about living in Southern California. "Katie, I'm going to ask you something, and I want you to give me a straight answer," Christy said once they'd sat down, away from the noisy crowds at the picnic tables. "Okay, shoot." "I want to know what you'd like to do together sometime. Just you and me." "What do you mean?" Katie asked. "What is something you'd like to do? Would you like to go shopping or what? Name it." "You're sounding like something's wrong, Christy. We do stuff together all the time. Why do we need to make special plans to do something together?" Christy took a deep breath and stuffed the remainder of her sandwich back in her lunch bag. She hadn't figured it would be this complicated. "Can I be honest with you?" "No, I want you to lie to me." Katie pushed Christy on the shoulder. "I'm only kidding! What are you being so serious about? You're scaring me." "Katie, you have been such a good friend to me. I feel like I haven't been as good a friend back to you. You're the most gracious friend I've ever had." "Gracious?" "Yeah, you know. Like last year when my aunt and uncle took me to Palm Springs. You didn't get to come because of the football game. You were so gracious about it." "But" Katie started to interrupt. Christy kept going, not letting Katie have a chance to disagree with her. "Then this summer when I went to Maui. You know I wanted to take you, but I had to take Paula with me because she was visiting that week. It was all set up by my aunt, and I didn't have any say about who went with me." "I know, Christy. You don't have to explain." "That's what I mean! You're

always so supportive. You were gracious about Palm Springs and Maui. You were even gracious when Paula was a snip to you. "Christy, Katie finally cut in, "you're making it sound as though I was being heroic. I wasn't. It killed me that I didn't get to go with you those times. "But you didn't act like it. That's what I'm trying to say. You've always been supportive of me. Always. "Well, almost always," Katie said. "If you will recall, I wasn't exactly supportive when you were dating Rick. "Yes, you were. You just had a strong opinion about him. "I still have that opinion. I didn't need to say all those things to you about him though," Katie said thoughtfully. "You handled the situation fine without my nasty comments. "No," Christy disagreed, "I needed you to say whatever you wanted to say. I needed to hear your opinion. And, as I've said before and will probably say a thousand times, you were right. Going out with Rick was a huge mistake. "And as I've told you a thousand times, going out with Rick was not the problem. Going steady with him was. Well, if you want my opinion, it was about the stupidest thing you've done in your entire life. "Christy laughed as Katie's honesty brushed over her. "Okay, well, I guess some things I have to learn the hard way. You know, it still hurts when I think about him. "Why? Because he was such a jerk, and he treated you like slime? "No, Rick didn't treat me badly; you know that. "Oh, right. He only stole the bracelet Todd gave you, hocked it to a jeweler, and is now making you buy it back with every paycheck until Thanksgiving. Silly me! "Katie slapped her forehead for emphasis. "I guess that's the way every girl hopes her boyfriend will treat her. I just haven't reached a level of maturity to be able to understand such deep, caring, emotionally enriching relationships. "Okay, okay! "Christy threw her hands up in surrender. "You're right! Okay? Rick was sort of a grade-A, first-class, total jerk," Katie filled in for her. "I guess you could put it that way," Christy gave in. "But he wasn't like that all the time. There's a tender side to him too. I'm not saying I want to go out with him again. It's just that I don't feel like my relationship with Rick is resolved. "You told him to get lost. What more needs to be resolved? "I can't explain it. I'm not sure I really know. I want him to understand why I broke up with him. One of these days I'd like to sit down with him and talk everything out. "Katie ventured slowly, "You mean the way you talked things

over with Todd that morning on the beach? I mean, can you honestly say you now feel your relationship with Todd is over and resolved?

Christy shook her head, feeling her hair tumble over her shoulders as she lowered her eyes. Uninvited tears brimmed behind her lower lids.

"No," she said softly. "It's not over with Todd. I think about him all the time."

"So?"

Katie perked up. "Why don't you write him? Send him a card. One of those cartoon ones. You told me your uncle gave you Todd's address last week. What are you waiting for?"

"I don't know." Christy blinked back a tear. "A lightning bolt from heaven, I guess."

"Then here," Katie said, playfully bopping Christy on the head with a foil-wrapped Ding Dong. "Consider this your lightning bolt from heaven, and this is your message: Goeth thereforeth and writeth to Toddeth."

Christy laughed, her clear blue-green eyes making contact with Katie's. "Since you put it that way, okay, I will. I shalt goeth and buyeth a card todayeth."

Katie smiled her approval. "You know, an occasional bonk on the head with a Ding Dong seems to do you some good. Remind me to do that about every fifty thousand miles."

Not until Christy was sitting in her Spanish class after lunch did she realize that Katie had never answered her original question. Christy still didn't know what Katie would like the two of them to do together. About the only time they had spent together during the summer was at church. Then school started, and Christy's job kept her busy every weekend. When Christy started going out with Rick, Katie had talked about having the annual back-to-school slumber party at her house. Only Christy hadn't been able to find a free weekend for the party since she worked every Friday night and then had gone out with Rick on Saturdays after work. With Rick out of the picture, Christy thought maybe she could help Katie plan a slumber party with a bunch of girls like they'd had last year. Christy drove right from school to the mall, where her job at the pet store started at four. Her boss, Jon, greeted her with a big smile.

"Guess what?" Jon said. His long hair was pulled back in its usual ponytail, and he had on his typical jeans and T-shirt. Christy didn't notice anything different about Jon. It must be something about the shop. She glanced around but didn't see anything that had changed.

"I don't know. I give up. What?"

"I sold Walter this morning."

Jon beamed. Even the mention of Walter gave Christy the willies. She would never forget the night when the fifteen-foot python escaped from his cage and slithered out into the mall.

"You seem pretty happy about selling him. Beverly told me you'd had him forever. I didn't think you'd ever sell him."

"I did have him forever. Not because I was fond of Walter, but because nobody

wanted to buy him. This morning some guy from Fallbrook came in and paid full price. Walter has a new home, and I couldn't be happier for him. Jon picked up a clipboard from under the counter and said, "I've been meaning to ask you. Are you still happy with your hours, or do you want to change them so you can spend more time with your boyfriend?" Christy felt her cheeks turn red. "Oh no," she said quickly. "My hours are fine. I don't need to change them. Really." Jon looked Christy in the eyes with the same scrutiny a doctor uses when checking a patient's throat. Then, as if he had found what he was looking for, he looked back at his clipboard. "I'm sorry." Christy felt a little confused by his examination. "You're sorry that I don't want to change my hours? I can change them or trade with somebody else if you need me to." "No, your hours are fine with me. As a matter of fact, they're great. I'm sorry you broke up with Rick." "What was his name?" "Rick." The moment Christy said his name, she felt as though she had bitten into a wild, tangy raspberry. "His name is Rick," she added, hoping to purge herself of the raspberry sensation. "We broke up about a week ago. But it's fine, really. We're just friends." Jon looked her in the eyes again. Then he flashed her a big grin, snapped the clip on top of the clipboard, stuck his pen behind his ear, and turned toward the back of the shop. "Well, I guess there comes a time when you have to say good-bye," he commented. "It's not always easy, but you've got to let the old snake go. Let somebody else have him for a while." Christy was about to jump in and defend Rick when Jon turned back to face her and said, "You know I'm talking about Walter, of course. That old snake, I mean." "Right." Christy smiled back. "Walter. Of course. I knew that." She slipped her backpack under the counter and took her position behind the register. "Guys. Who needs them? Not me. Christy began to straighten the countertop, ready to concentrate on work. "I'll show Jon and Katie and everyone else that I don't need a guy in my life. Taking a deep breath, she mumbled, "Now, if I can only convince myself, I'll be fine."

I bought this book for my daughter who's in middle school. She has already read volumes 1 & 2. She can read through these fairly thick books in a couple of weeks - and she's not much of a reader. She really enjoys them. It has enough "romance" to keep a teen girl interested without being over the top.



The Christy Miller series is timeless. Great for teens of any era. A peer of mine relayed how her girls growing up in the 90's shared the series with each other. I have encouraged my 15 year old grand daughter to do the same. Thank you Robin Gunn for continuing to have a positive influence on teens of today.

If you haven't purchased the entire series, you really should. This series is so good. I read them as a kid and now my daughter is reading them. I don't have to worry what subject matter will come up and if it will be appropriate for my 12 year old. They are good, clean books that talk about real life situations, but the character handles the issues with integrity and high morals.

Best books ever! I read this whole book, which is a series of 3 books in 1, in one month! Addictive!

I read these books for the first time probably ten years ago today. I'm almost 27 and these books still set an example for my life. I definitely recommend these books to any young adult who enjoy a great story line with someone they can relate. I'll never forget these books and will always come back to them for several more reads in the future.

This was for my daughter and she loves the series

My 12 year old loves this series! Well written love story and wholesome compared to what other books are popular for this age group

Just what I expected!

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