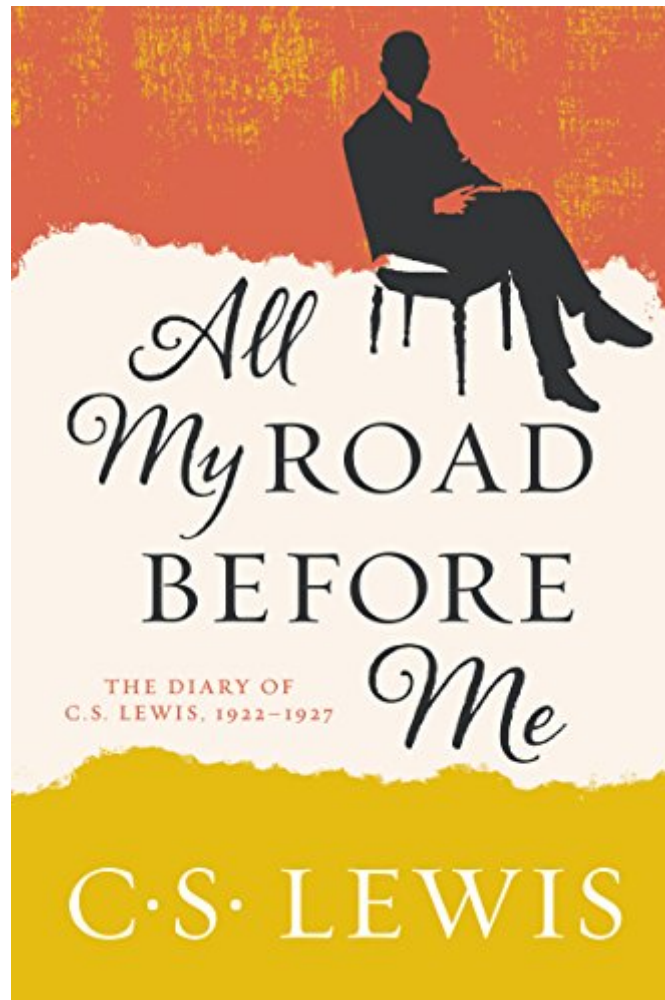




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All My Road Before Me: The Diary Of C. S. Lewis, 1922-1927



Synopsis

A repackaged edition of the revered author's diary from his early twenties—a thought-provoking work that reveals his earliest thinking about war, atheism, religion, and humanity. While serving his country in the Great War, C. S. Lewis—the great British writer, scholar, lay theologian, broadcaster, and Christian apologist—made a pact with a close friend and fellow soldier. If one of them died, the survivor would take care of his family—a promise Lewis honored. Developing a deep friendship with his fallen friend's mother, Jane King Moore, Lewis moved into the Moore household after the war. Returning to Oxford, the twenty-three-year old Lewis—then a staunch atheist—struggled to adapt to life in post-war England. Eager to help the tormented young man, Jane encouraged him keep a diary of his day-to-day life. Those reflections are collected in this illuminating journal. Covering five remarkable years in Lewis's life, *All My Road Before Me* charts the inspirations and intellectual and spiritual development of a man whose theology and writing—including *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and many other beloved classics—has had immense influence on the Christian world.

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Customer Reviews

Settle in for some time travel back to 1922 and observe the day-to-day life of WWI veteran and university student C.S. Lewis. Even his pre-Christian writings (such as *Spirits in Bondage*) reveal a mind awake. After reading some of the numerous biographies, why not go directly to the source? Most Lewis fans have read *Surprised by Joy*, but I suspect very few have looked at this 5-year diary. *All My Road* is a light, charming look at the young Lewis, and while there are few spiritual insights, his writing draws one in. I don't think Lewis considered at the time that this diary would ever be published; nonetheless, his writing is so engaging one might suspect he had the reading public in mind. What one gets is the day-to-day experiences of being a student, school politics, taking care of home responsibilities (the care of Mrs. Moore), occasional adventures, canoeing the Thames (very gratifying to me, a kayaker), drinking and conversing with friends, tea time, insights from his vast reading, and his reflections on writing his epic poem, *Dymer*. If all this doesn't sound too inviting, read a few pages, and you'll get the gist of what you're in for. I found myself looking forward to escaping back into Lewis's world. Editor Walter Hopper (for whom we owe a debt of gratitude for overseeing the CSL literary archives) has provided a helpful introduction, index and biographical sketches of numerous key figures mentioned. And there's a forward by Jack's good friend Owen Barfield. We can open this diary, pour a cup of tea and have a seat at the table with our old friend.

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