



# The Mind of Judas

*My Name Was Judas*

C. K. Stead.

This is an original and controversial version of the Gospel story. Stead has gathered the Biblical accounts of Jesus' life, and set them out almost in diary form. Judas was presumed to have taken his own life after the crucifixion, but he survived, and forty years later he relates his memoirs, starting with their lives together as children, their intellect, their admiration for each other, the rivalry between them. Later, as a disciple, Judas finds it difficult to believe in all the myths that begin to surround Jesus as he gains fame, popularity, and notoriety. Jesus' oratory and charisma were leading to claims that he was the Messiah, and Judas thus became rather the odd man out among the disciples because of his unbelief. It was easy then, to name him as the betrayer of Jesus at the final showdown with the Romans and Temple authorities in Jerusalem.

With his richly-painted backdrops of ancient Palestine, Stead goes beyond the boundaries of the story known to us all, and convincingly enters the mind of one of its key players. It's a bold novel, with its wonderfully clear narrative prose, is fresh, provocative, and compelling.

*Bruce Hamilton, Nelson*