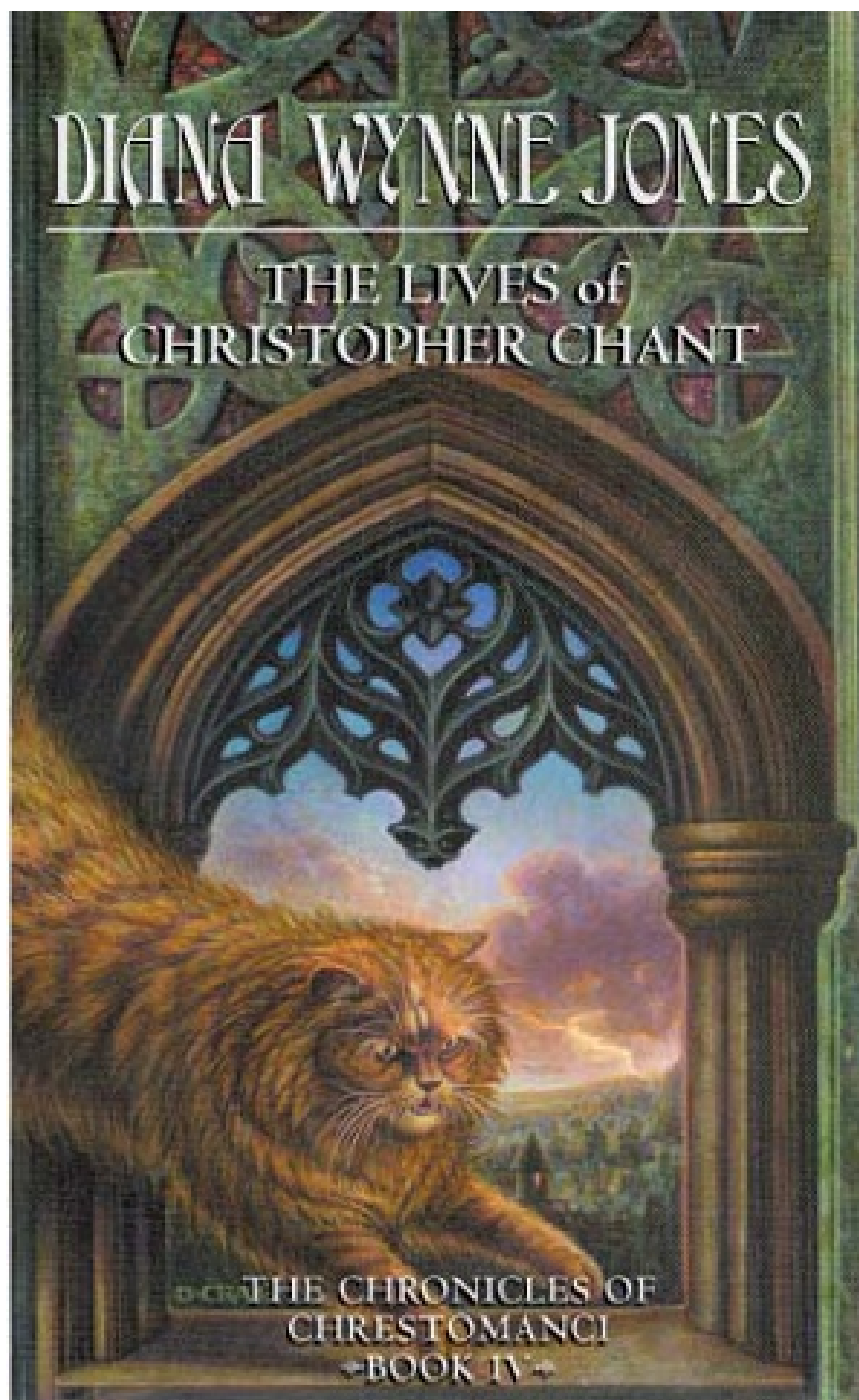


A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in a dark blue color, framing the central text.

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182



There are thousands of worlds, all different from ours. Chrestomanci's world is the one next door to us, and the difference here is that magic is as common as music is with us. It is full of people working magic—warlocks, witches, thaumaturges, sorcerers, fakirs, conjurors, hexers,

magicians, mages, shamans, diviners and many more—from the lowest Certified witch right up to the most powerful of enchanters. Enchanters are strange as well as powerful. Their magic is different and stronger and many of them have more than one life.

Now, if someone did not control all these busy

magic-users, ordinary people would have a horrible time and probably end up as slaves. So the government appoints the very strongest enchanter there is to make sure no one misuses magic. This enchanter has nine lives and is known as “the Chrestomanci.” You pronounce it KREST-OH-MAN-SEE. He has to have a strong personality as well as strong magic.

Diana Wynne Jones

DIANA WYNNE JONES

The Lives of
Christopher Chant

For Leo

who got hit on the head

with a cricket bat

NOTE

Everything in this book happens at least twenty-five years before the story told in *Charmed Life*.

CONTENTS

NOTE: THERE ARE THOUSANDS of worlds,
all different from ours.

NOTE: E.verything in this book...

1 IT WAS YEARS before Christopher told anyone
about his dreams.

2 CHRISTOPHER WAS CALLED to Mama's
dressing room that afternoon.

3 CHRISTOPHER THOUGHT he would never live
through the time until tomorrow night.

4 BY THE NEXT MORNING, Christopher was
heartily sick of the smell...

5 IT WAS EARLY MORNING. Christopher realized
that what had woken him...

6 FROM THEN ON, Uncle Ralph arranged a new
experiment every week.

7 THE NEXT MORNING Matron noticed

Christopher stumbling about...

8 FOR THE REST of the Spring term, Christopher went regularly to the Anywheres...

9 CHRISTOPHER WENT BACK to school the next day. He was rather afraid that Mama...

10 FOR THE NEXT three weeks, Dr. Pawson kept Christopher so hard at work...

1 1 FOR THE FIRST WEEK, Christopher could think of nothing else but how much he hated...

1 2 THEY SAID he had broken his neck this time. Miss Rosalie told him that the spells...

13 THAT NIGHT Christopher went around the corner between his trunk and the fireplace...

14 AGAIN there was nothing wrong with Christopher when he woke up.

15 THE GODDESS was in her bedroom-place, sitting cross-legged on the white cushions...

16 GABRIEL HAD HIS ELBOWS on the arms of the chair and his long, knob-knuckled hands...

17 “HOW DID YOU GET HERE?” Christopher said.

18 GABRIEL DE WITT and his assistants left
promptly at ten.

19 THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS were the
busiest Christopher had ever spent.

20 HERE WAS the perfect excuse to stop looking
for Gabriel.

21 THE PAIN STOPPED the instant the Gate shut.
Tacroy lowered Christopher...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BOOKS BY DIANA WYNNE JONES

CREDITS

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[INTERVIEW](#)