In this lively account, Steven L. Davies shows that he has read widely and well in anthropology and related fields and that he has made productive use of what he found there in his search for the historic Jesus. He draws his sometimes surprising thesis from what we know, cross-culturally, about possession beliefs and trance experiences. Jesus emerges not only as a healer and exorcist of demon-possessed sufferers, but as one who is, at times, himself spirit-possessed. The resulting picture brings Jesus and his people into a world of healers and prophets, sufferers and followers quite consistent with what we know of colonial peasant societies.

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