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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Nice to find this for KindleBy L.E.Y.I'm a George MacDonald fan, and this is one of my special favorites of his books. If you really can't read the Scots dialect, then find yourself an updated version...but me, I'm staying with the original. I don't even know how many times I have read this book through the years, but it was nice to find it for Kindle.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Recommend, but didn't think it was one of the best stories of George MacDonaldBy deborahI generally love George MacDonald's novels, with their strong message of Christian faith in action, even when love must be practiced towards very difficult, unjust, shallow or even cruel people.Sir Gibbie, homeless orphan son of an alcoholic father, loves and serves others even though he is ragged, unable to speak, cold, hungry and often mistaken for an "idiot" and abused. After witnessing the brutal murder of his only friend, he runs away and is eventually taken in by a poor rural Christian family. This bridges his understanding between his innate love for people and love for God. Later he is recognized as a Baronet and

moves to the city, where he lives with a minister and his wife who, though they seem to themselves to be Christian, are missing love for God and for anyone else who it doesn't benefit them to acknowledge. This is a good story that many people have rated very highly, but I didn't find it to be one of George MacDonald's best. The brutal murder that sends Gibbie to the countryside was described and remembered several times in detail and didn't seem to belong to the rest of the book. Also, Sir Gibbie himself is, in almost every chapter, given some bizarre new attribute that makes it hard to really embrace his loving character. For instance, even when he belongs to a family and can wear clothes, he wears only skins. When he is really happy, he stands on one foot. Since he can't speak, he learns to write and then to use sign language in about two pages apiece. It's hard to identify with him. On the good side, the book is a shining example of Romanticism - the un-schooled child of nature with a golden heart who is far better than his socially acceptable neighbors is well portrayed here, as are many beautiful descriptions of the Scottish farms and countryside, including a disastrous flood so well pictured that you feel like you were there watching. Also, the ending is a happy one and is also typical of novels from this time - the poor homeless, neglected child turns out to be a titled Baronet, who comes into money, demonstrates to people who thought themselves superior what kindness and Christianity should really mean, and wins a young lady worthy of selfless love. I recommend this book, but didn't like to give it as many stars as others of George MacDonald that I thought were better. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of George MacDonald's Best! By J. Lindstrom George MacDonald is a consummate Scottish story teller, and this is one of his best. It is uplifting to read of MacDonald's heroes whose goal is to be genuinely godly without being prudish or self-righteous. I thought I had the ending figured out by the third or fourth chapter, but I was wrong. Now I must read Donal Grant, the sequel to Sir Gibbie. If you want a story that will capture you for almost 400 pages and leave you wanting to be a better person, you will love this story. Get ready for a bit of Scottish brogue in the dialog. (It looks hard; however, if you read it aloud, even in your own head, it is pretty easy to discern enough of it to make sense.)

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