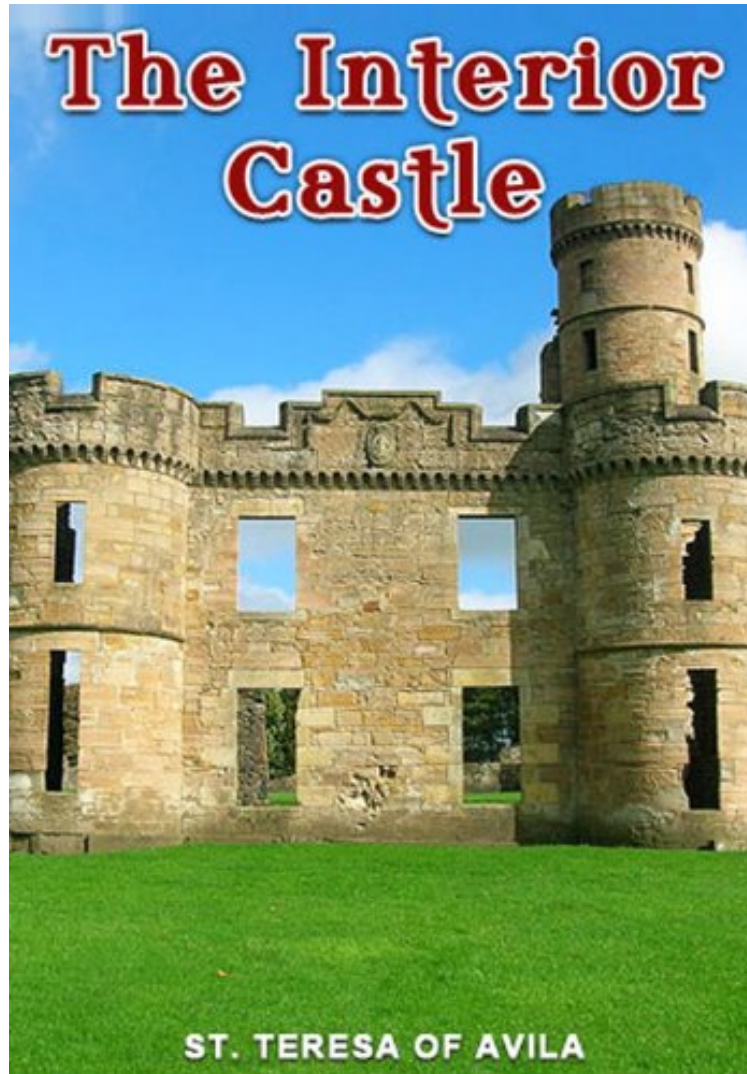


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The Interior Castle (English Edition)

Von St. Teresa of Avila

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Von St. Teresa of Avila : The Interior Castle (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Interior Castle (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This is a classic of spiritual literature. Von Ein Kunde Interior Castle, by St. Teresa of Avila, is one of the saint's writings that is filled with spiritual insight, charm, and breathtaking closeness to God. Her castle is the God within, and there are outward mansions that must be penetrated to get to this inner treasure. Each mansion is a deepening of one's knowledge of God, and a step further away from one's capture by externality and the world. She describes these inward steps, and leads one onward to union with God (or God carries one onward - at first it is our efforts, than it is

God's). Beautiful and illuminating. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Holy Mother at her best Von The Hermit A later book of Teresa's, this work is her culmination in that she had achieved further understanding of communion with God; more so than when she wrote her earlier books, such as Way of Perfection. This book is beautifully written, intense and graphic in imagery, and, if such a thing can be said, is a good "practical" manual for mystics. The Saint at her best! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Castles in the air Von Fr Kurt Messick Teresa of Avila is one of the more remarkable figures in the history of Christianity. Living in a perilous time, when the Roman Catholic church was suspicious of anything that might develop into Protestant heresies and schisms, she walked a fine line between obedience to the political structure and obedience to God. It is often the case that mystics and spiritual giants are at odds with church structures of the day (this is rather ecumenical, reaching across Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant lines). Teresa lived at time shortly after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain (which occurred in 1492). Her own family was a converso family; hence, there were different dimensions to the wariness of the powers in the culture toward her activities. Being a woman at the time didn't help matters, either, as she defied the stereotypes in several ways, by seeking education and leadership opportunities, all the while being part of the discalced Carmelites, who strive to cultivate humility and poverty. Teresa's life was not an easy one; she suffered physical ailments and political difficulties. However, she was also a sought-after advisor, spiritual leader, and fairly prolific author. Her various writings made her famous in her own day, but the towering achievement that has lasted over time is without doubt 'Interior Castle'. This text shows a spiritual journey on the inside, developing different walks through aspects of spiritual life and prayer developed in seven stages, or mansions. The life of prayer is the castle, with seven stages of development. The first three stages are pieces that humankind can practice with their own efforts; the final four stages are those which are given from God, and God alone - no human effort can reach these places. The first mansion looks to the striving toward perfection of the human soul. The second looks to different pieces that give spiritual edification; sermons, readings, prayer practices, conversation, etc. The third mansion sets forth discipline and penance, striving toward good works while reaching for self-surrender. These are not easy stages, but are within the realm of human possibility. The fourth mansion begins the mystical journey in earnest at the behest of God. Here Teresa uses a metaphor of water and a fountain to explain the soul, and explores graces as spiritual consolations. Here is the Prayer of Quiet. The fifth mansion continues the theme of water, looking toward a Prayer of Union, which leads naturally to the sixth mansion, where the soul is prepared for a marriage of sorts, as intimacy with God increases in the soul. The seventh and final, most interior mansion, which is heaven itself; metaphors here used include two candles joining as one, and the falling rain merging to become one with the river. These mansions are based on visions; Teresa was compelled to write them down at the order of her ecclesiastical superiors, for she herself thought to keep them to herself. Her writing was done very late in her life, but even so, she took care to be humble and as non-threatening as possible; modern readers might be a bit taken aback by the self-deprecation of Teresa, and the general stance she seems to take towards women. This may have been an attempt to make an authoritative text written by a woman more acceptable to the male-dominated hierarchy of the time. However, not all of Teresa's humility should be dismissed or argued away in this manner. She is reputed to have said, 'There are more than enough books on prayer already,' in response to being told to write her visions. This might have been true (then and now), but few reach the power that Teresa's 'Interior Castle' achieve.

Kurzbeschreibung The Interior Castle or The Mansions by St. Teresa of Avila This spiritual autobiography was originally intended as a series of addresses to the nuns of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites, the order which St Teresa founded. The book contains advice and direction on themes ranging from self-knowledge and humility to detachment and suffering. St Teresa compares the human soul to a castle, equipped with many mansions. The key to entering this castle is prayer. Following St Teresa's spiritual pilgrimage, the reader enters the first mansion of humility and then the succeeding mansions of practising prayer, meditation, the prayer of quiet, the prayer of union with God, before entering the central mansion where God resides and where the most special spiritual blessings are to be received. Kurzbeschreibung The Interior Castle or The Mansions by St. Teresa of Avila This spiritual autobiography was originally intended as a series of addresses to the nuns of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites, the order which St Teresa founded. The book contains advice and direction on themes ranging from self-knowledge and humility to detachment and suffering. St Teresa compares the human soul to a castle, equipped with many mansions. The key to entering this castle is prayer. Following St Teresa's spiritual pilgrimage, the reader enters the first mansion of humility and then the succeeding mansions of practising prayer, meditation, the prayer of quiet, the prayer of union with God, before entering the central mansion where God resides and where the most special spiritual blessings are to be received. Synopsis Written in 1577 and first published in English in 1852, The Interior Castle is considered one of the greatest works of Catholic spiritual prose. A painting of the spirit within a Renaissance landscape, this allegory of the soul as a castle is both poetic and didactic. Written in address of women, this work describes the seven concentric groups of mansions within the soul, each aligned to one of the seven heavens, and here is the map which gently, and

with love and prayer, leads the female spirit through war, fear, and humility, into the ultimate destination-the central court and a spiritual "marriage" to God. The works of Spanish nun SAINT TERESA OF AVILA (1515-1582) rank among the most extraordinary mystical writings of Roman Catholicism and among the classics of all religious traditions. Her writings include *The Way of Perfection* and her autobiography, *The Life of Saint Teresa of Jesus*.