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Von Teresa of Avila
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Von Teresa of Avila : The Life of St Teresa of Avila by Herself (Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Life of St Teresa of Avila by Herself (Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This is a masterpiece of religious literature.Von Ein KundeThe Life of St. Teresa of Avila is one of the world's greatest spiritual creations. Written at the command of her superiors, it is the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, a Spanish Carmelite nun, mystic, and religious reformer, in an age where women, mysticism, and political activism were considered bold

and rare. I found it, at first, to be a difficult book - difficult because of its intensity, and difficult because of the level on which it is written - it comes out of the highest levels of communion and friendship with God. I could only read it in increments (it was too overwhelming). Later, I was able to reread it freely, because I had assimilated her language (a spiritual one) and point of view, and was familiar with it. Its greatness lies in her enthusiastic, attractive personality, her original and very holy spiritual insights, her adventurous path in her relationship with God, and the clear and amazing articulation of very high levels of prayer and action stemming from constant communion with God. Mysticism is very hard to articulate - THIS is why this book is great. It DOES articulate it. I think, of all her writings, it is the most amazing, clearest, and most insightful. Her nuggets of wisdom on the spiritual life and life in the world have stayed with me, and I often think back to her - or to her preface - for both guidance and sustenance. It is not without cause that she was declared a doctor of the Catholic Church, and is looked upon as a very great saint in the Church. As she says, "Let nothing distress you, Let nothing disturb you, All things pass but God, Who alone is all. Patience will get thee, All that thou hast striven for. Cleave to God, and naught else will fail thee, for God alone is all." von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An extraordinary woman Von Ingles No doubt about it, Teresa of Avila was a force to be reckoned with. Staggeringly intelligent, talented as a leader, reformist, and writer, powerful as a personality, this is the type of woman who was born to make history no matter what era she would have been born in. There has never been anyone else like her. She possessed wit and great common sense. She was also one of the greatest mystics who ever lived. Her life is more enlightening than imitable as no one else could ever hope to aspire to the heights that she reached in the many areas that she excelled in. I don't see how the average person not living in a cloister could use this as a spiritual guide. It is on too high a plane. Her life is a real page turner-and an odd one at times as she describes in detail her ecstatic swoons and transports that to modern readers have something unmistakably erotic about them. But there is no doubting her veracity on these matters, there just is a certain embarrassment at times at reading her completely artless way of relating these matters where she does not seem to be aware at all of what she is saying and how she is saying it. I don't recommend this as a spiritual guide for the general public but I do think that it is a very unusual and worthwhile autobiography which is unlike any other you will ever read. Those just reading this for her life story can skip the long detailed spiritual sections. I am full of admiration for Teresa of Avila and think she is a very good writer.

Kurzbeschreibung Born in the Castilian town of Avila in 1515, Teresa entered the Carmelite convent of the Incarnation when she was twenty-one. Tormented by illness, doubts and self-recrimination, she gradually came to recognize the power of prayer and contemplation - her spiritual enlightenment was intensified by many visions and mystical experiences, including the piercing of her heart by a spear of divine love. She went on to found seventeen Carmelite monasteries throughout Spain. Teresa always denied her own saintliness, however, saying in a letter: 'There is no suggestion of that nonsense about my supposed sanctity.' This frank account is one of the great stories of a religious life and a literary masterpiece - after Don Quixote, it is Spain's most widely read prose classic..de Written at the command of her confessors, the books of this 16th century Spanish saint and mystic (a beloved friend to another great Spanish mystic, John of the Cross), St. Teresa's writings remain classics of Christian mysticism. Less abstract and theoretical than her friend, Teresa's works are no less noteworthy for the brilliance of their ability to convey with both warmth and rigor some flavor of this most extraordinary experience: union with God. Her autobiography may well be the best entry point into her work and into the great mystical literature of the Christian church. Here she describes her early life and education, the conflicts and crisis she underwent, culminating in her determination to enter fully into the path of prayer. Following a description of the contemplative life, which she explores in four stages, she returns to her own life in order to describe (in erotic language reminiscent of the Song of Songs) the ecstatic experiences given to her by God. If the idea of mysticism seems hopelessly otherworldly to you, try a taste of St. Teresa, who can be as down to earth as Oprah--and sometimes just as amusing. --Doug Thorpe.co.uk Written at the command of her confessors, the books of this 16th-century Spanish saint and mystic--a beloved friend to another great Spanish mystic, John of the Cross--remain classics of Christian mysticism. Less abstract and theoretical than her friend, St Teresa's writings are no less noteworthy for the brilliance of their ability to convey with both warmth and rigour some flavour of this most extraordinary experience: union with God. Her autobiography may well be the best entry point into her work, and into the great mystical literature of the Christian church. Here she describes her early life and education, the conflicts and crisis she underwent, culminating in her determination to enter fully into the path of prayer. Following a description of the contemplative life, which she explores in four stages, she returns to her own life in order to describe (in erotic language reminiscent of the Song of Songs) the ecstatic experiences given to her by God.If the idea of mysticism seems hopelessly otherworldly to you, try a taste of St Teresa, who can be as down to earth as Oprah--and sometimes just as amusing. --Doug Thorpe