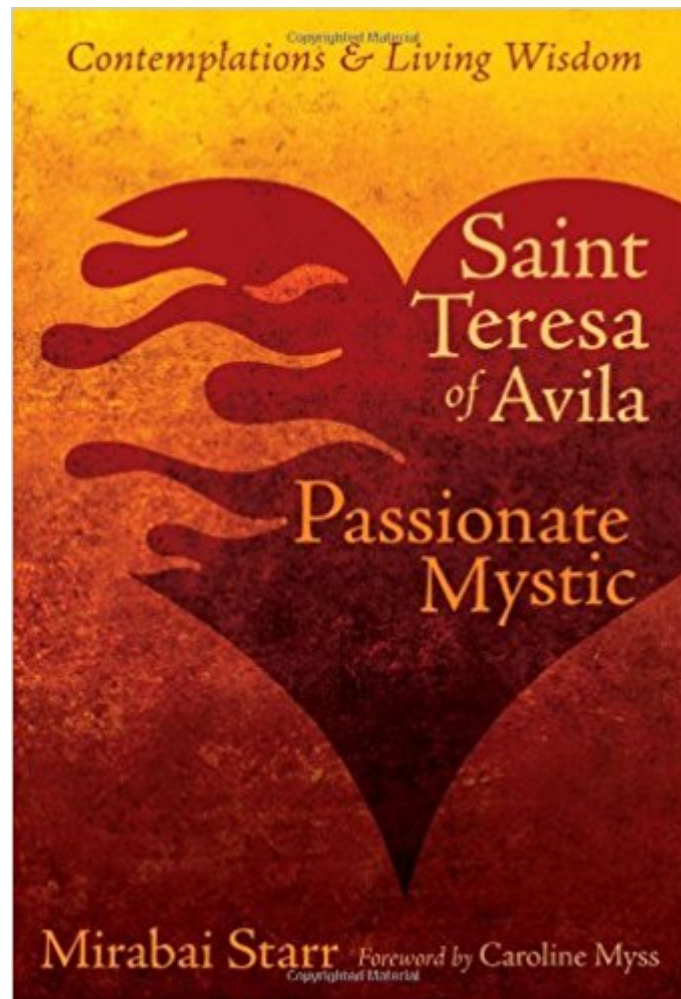


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Saint Teresa Of Avila: Passionate Mystic (Contemplations & Living Wisdom)



Synopsis

"The important thing is not to think much, but to love much, and so to do whatever best awakens us to love." — St. Teresa of Avila

Journey to the 16th century to discover the fiery passion of Saint Teresa of Avila, one of Christianity's most inspiring saints. A tireless reformer and the mentor of Saint John of the Cross, Teresa's greatest legacy is her revelation of ecstatic love for God — a love so powerful that it pierces the heart like a burning sword. Through illness, hardship, and persecution by the Inquisition, this courageous mystic lit the way with her unquenchable spirit to an "interior castle," a place of unimaginable beauty and light where no darkness can touch us. Saint Teresa of Avila gives you a direct link to the living presence of this brave and gentle woman, to draw upon her strength in your own times of need.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Teresa of Avila is my favorite saint and I enjoyed this little book, which is mainly comprised of quotes from and about her. Even though I treasured reading again some of the best-loved passages written by St. Teresa, I have a few reservations about recommending the book for everyone. The book offers a short biography of Teresa of Avila, which is engagingly written and emphasizes Teresa's vivacious and fun-loving nature. Unfortunately, the author does not limit herself to known facts, and tries to make the saint suit her own image and more relatable to modern readers, such as, for example, slyly suggesting the teenaged Teresa could have given up her virginity. The trouble

is that Teresa's writings extensively detail her faults, weakness, and sins, the worst of which were wasting time with idle socializing and reading silly novels, not sexual impropriety. The author also draws connections between Teresa's theology and Buddhism, Islam, new age thought, modern feminism, etc. Some of these connections might have validity but some seemed, again, trying to change Teresa into what the author wants her to be rather than the thoroughly Catholic theologian she was, one of the few women to earn the title of Doctor of the Church because of her writing on Christian theology. In some of the author's prior works, she notified the reader that she altered Teresa of Avila's Christian references to make her words more inclusive of other religions, and it appears she has done the same thing here but without giving the same warning to the reader that the saint's words have been changed to fit the author's purposes and outlook. I would rather read what Teresa wrote, but failing that, a disclosure of these modifications should be provided. Readers should know this book is quite brief.

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