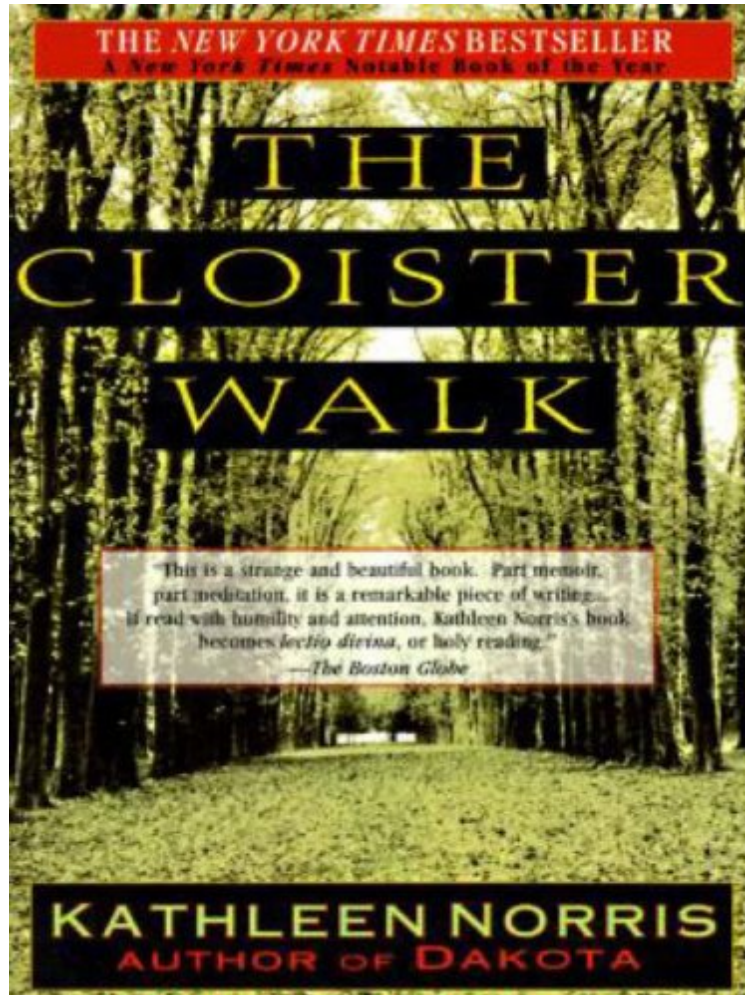


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The Cloister Walk

Von Kathleen Norris

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Von Kathleen Norris : The Cloister Walk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cloister Walk:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An intriguing diary that calls up many questionsVon Ein KundeWhen Kathleen Norris found her life in a shambles, she sought shelter in the cloistered world of the Benedictines. She never details the specific problems that led to her quest for renewed faith in God. Although she has joined the monastery as an oblate--unlike the monks and nuns, she can leave to resume her married life and her book tours--she nevertheless feels that she has penetrated to the core of the monastic experience. Her descriptions of what the liturgy means to her, what the companionship of celibate men and women has given her, show us what has kept the Catholic monastery alive for nearly two thousand years. The topics of faith and spirituality, God and religion, monastic service and celibacy are interpreted through her own experience. She

writes movingly and convincingly of her own feelings and thoughts, but I am left wondering just what it was that drove a married Protestant woman of middle age, who confesses to a "checkered past," to seek haven in monasteries. Surely her life's experiences color her perceptions and interpretations of cloistered Catholicism. In addition, she identifies herself as a poet, and she is a conspicuous participant in many rituals as she walks ahead of hundreds of monks to begin the reading for a service. Her anecdotes and quotations beautifully present the understanding she has gained, but how close is that to what the lifetime monks and nuns experience?

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. New Life for Theology Von Mary I first read *Cloister Walk* after deciding to write my senior thesis on her writings. I was intrigued by a writer who was a feminist, embraced Christianity, explored monasteries, and found an audience outside the conservative Christian market. As a person who has grown up with a strong faith in God and love for Jesus, I also longed for new ways to talk about God. Norris's honesty and exploration of what it's like to live out the beliefs and ideas of the Christian faith gave me confidence to explore my own experiences of these beliefs. Her chapter on the Psalms was particularly amazing. I felt like I was being set free with Norris to be honest with God and others about being human--complete with anger, doubt, and depression. Her theology, or speech about God, is grounded in everyday living. She finds God revealed in the simplest things, which is consistent with the Bible and the character of God--who chose to become a human in Jesus. This affirms for me that even the smallest things I do everyday are important to God--because he loves me enough to become someone like me.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mesmerizing Von Janet C. Testoni I must agree with the Boston Globe's description of this book as both strange and beautiful. *The Cloister Walk* is mesmerizing. An extraordinary book that is at once memoir, poetry and meditative reflections that can leave one poised in long moments of silence. Norris, in sharing her experiences as a monastic oblate, opens the door for the reader to experience the power of 'lectio divina'-- "represents the power of words to resonate with the full range of human experience . . . [as one attempts] to read more with the heart than with the mind" (xx). Norris carries the reader along into the hymns and prayers of Christianity and the Rule of St. Benedict. As Norris shares many passages from the monastic bible (dating back to the 4th c.), one realizes that not much has changed in the past sixteen centuries. Acts of violence against one another and our environment continue to be played out through the centuries. The bible is a book of philosophy as well as psychiatry with the power to heal our collective wounds. "In expressing all the complexities and contradictions of human experience, the psalms act as good psychologists. They defeat our tendency to try to be holy without being human first" (96). There are two faces to the heart: one of evil and one of good, we must be willing to accept both in our search for inner peace and harmony. Boggled down by dogmatic interpretations of the bible, I walk away from the *Cloister Walk* inspired and uplifted with a greater interest in understanding the true, unadulterated intention of the bible.

Kurzbeschreibung A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER AND NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR Vivid, compelling... An embrace of moral and spiritual contemplation. The New York Times A remarkable piece of writing. If read with humility and attention, Kathleen Norris's book becomes lectio divina, or holy reading. The Boston Globe From the iconic author of *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, a spiritual journey that brings joy to the meanings of love, grace and faith. Why would a married woman with a thoroughly Protestant background and often more doubt than faith be drawn to the ancient practice of monasticism, to a community of celibate men whose days are centered on a rigid schedule of prayer, work, and scripture? This is the question that poet Kathleen Norris asks us as, somewhat to her own surprise, she found herself on two extended residencies at St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. Part record of her time among the Benedictines, part meditation on various aspects of monastic life, *The Cloister Walk* demonstrates, from the rare perspective of someone who is both an insider and outsider, how immersion in the cloistered world-- its liturgy, its ritual, its sense of community-- can impart meaning to everyday events and deepen our secular lives. In this stirring and lyrical work, the monastery, often considered archaic or otherworldly, becomes immediate, accessible, and relevant to us, no matter what our faith may be. From the Trade Paperback edition. de In the tradition of Thomas Merton, Kathleen Norris gives us an intimate look at how religious life fills a gap in the soul. Her poetic sensibilities internalize the monastery as a symbol of spirituality, with its sanctity and humor, questioning and uncertainty, rhythm and vigor. Beyond moral precepts and Bible stories, *Cloister Walk* is a very personal account of religion lived fully. It depicts a depth and beauty of spirituality in monastic life that has survived the vicissitudes of Roman Catholic politics and pomp. Pressestimmen "In *The Cloister Walk*, persisting in [Norris's] wonderfully idiosyncratic ways, she gives us the result of an 'immersion into a liturgical world'... She is one of hisoty's writing pilgrims but also a contemporary American one, boldly willing to forsake any number of cultural fads, trends, and preoccupations in favor of this 'walk,' this searching expedition within herself." --The New York Times Book "Norris continues to write plainspoken meditations that expand the purview of non-fiction... She writes about religion with the imagination of a poet... In reading Norris, one come to feel like a spiritual collaborate and, when one's spirit fails, like a spiritual rebel." --Chicago Tribune "With her lucid, luminous prose, hardheaded logic, and far-reaching metaphors, Norris has brought us the cloister at its most alive." --San Francisco Chronicle "The Cloister

Walk is a new opportunity to discover a remarkable writer with a huge, wise heart... you want to share this great discovery, giving her work as a gift-- or you simply shove a copy in the face of a friend, saying, 'Read this.'" -- Minneapolis Star-Tribune "Norris presents ample proof that holy people don't have to be starchy... If you learn anything from *The Cloister Walk*, it's that monks are people too. They gossip, crack jokes, fall asleep in church, suffer through depression and doubt like the rest of us.... Perhaps there's hope for spiritual life outside the cloister after all." -- Newsday