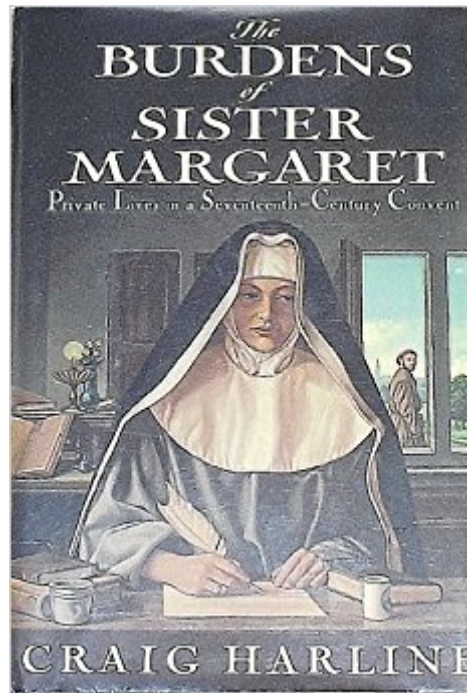




The book was found

Burdens Of Sister Margaret, The



Synopsis

A noted historian recreates life in a seventeenth-century Belgian convent, offering a fascinating narrative based on recently discovered letters and documents, focusing on the trials of Sister Margaret, who accused a chaplain of sexual harassment.

Book Information

Hardcover: 359 pages

Publisher: Doubleday; 1st edition (July 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385473958

ISBN-13: 978-0385473958

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #996,198 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in [Books > History > Europe > Belgium](#) #4217 in [Books > History > World > Women in History](#) #5955 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Religious](#)

Customer Reviews

Life in a seventeenth-century cloistered convent would not seem to be the most exciting of topics, but it turns out to be more provocative than one might expect. Harline, a scholar in European history, was doing research in a Belgian archive when he came upon letters and documents from a convent in the town of Louvain. The focal point of the correspondence was Sister Margaret Smulders, who earned the enmity of her fellow sisters by claiming she was sexually harassed by the convent's popular confessor. Witchcraft, demonic possession, and sexual tension all play roles in this bizarre tale, but the fragmentary source material leaves Harline no choice but to put together a lot of the puzzle pieces himself. A more serious problem for the general audience is the dryness of the prose, which works against the provocative subject matter. Still, for larger religion and history collections, this peek inside the walls of a counter-Reformation convent offers new information about a largely hidden world. Ilene Cooper

A scrupulous dissection of the daily lives of a group of cloistered 17th-century Franciscan nuns as seen through the eyes of one blighted sister in their midst. Harline (History/Brigham Young Univ.) has amassed rare evidence from a convent in the Spanish Netherlands to show that, during the

Catholic Counter Reformation, religious life was ``shaped by debate...rather than established forever by arbitrary proclamations from on high." Toward this end, he offers the correspondence of (and about) the convent's controversial Sister Margaret Smulders, whom he calls ``one of the most prolific letter- writers in early modern monastic history." Margaret earns the hatred of her Mother Superior and becomes an outcast among her sisters after her allegations of sexual harassment against the well-liked convent confessor result in his dismissal. She is charged with harboring demonic spirits and all manner of evils. She is then banished--remaining defenseless until the archbishop and another powerful male religious figure become her advocates. But after exorcisms and an apparent ``recovery," Margaret returns only to be excluded from the main life of the convent. Finally, she becomes a full-time chronicler of convent ills. Her vast correspondence with the powerful clergy--written mainly in anticipation of their periodic corrective ``visitations"--form the basis of Harline's narrative. But Margaret's litany of complaints varies little. What are interesting points the first time around- -that too many nuns pursue temporal pleasures or fraternize with outsiders through the convent gates--wear thin by the fourth official visit. Though many of the reforms Margaret recommends are actually prescribed, few of them are enacted, and she dies largely defeated. Though sad, Margaret's tale effectively illustrates Harline's point that ``if a superior wanted to ensure that reform went in a certain way, he would have to do more than merely issue decrees." A lovingly wrought--but overly lengthy--bit of arcane religious history. (b&w illustrations) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Burdens of Sister Margaret, The The Sixteen Burdens (The Burdens Trilogy Book 1) Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear Shout, Sister, Shout!: The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe Big Sister and Little Sister Karen's Figure Eight (Baby-Sitters Little Sister #118) (The Baby-Sitters Club Little Sister) Sister Sister: A truly absorbing psychological thriller Uncensored Sister Anime manga Hentai sister Uncensored Sexbilder AnimÃ© images Big Sister, Little Sister To My Sister: A Gift of Love and Inspiration to Thank You for Being My Sister An Awesome Siblingship - Fill In Journal Book Gift For Your Brother/Sister: What I Love About My Brother/Sister An Awesome Siblingship - Fill In Journal Book Gift For Your Brother/Sister: What I Love About My Brother/Sister Greeting Card The Great Alta Saga: Sister Light, Sister Dark; White Jenna; and The One-Armed Queen Coming of Age: The Sexual Awakening of Margaret Mead The Visions of Tondal: From the Library of Margaret of York Painting The Impressionist Still Life With Margaret Aycock Painting Better Landscapes: Specific Ways to Improve Your Oils by Kessler, Margaret [01 March 1992] Mean Margaret Are You There God? It's

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help