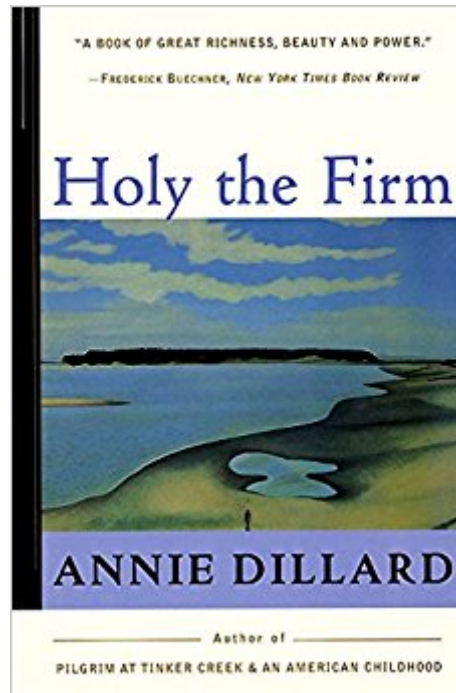




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Holy The Firm



Synopsis

In 1975 Annie Dillard took up residence on an island in Puget Sound in a wooded room furnished with "one enormous window, one cat, one spider and one person." For the next two years she asked herself questions about time, reality, sacrifice death, and the will of God. In *Holy the Firm* she writes about a moth consumed in a candle flame, about a seven-year-old girl burned in an airplane accident, about a baptism on a cold beach. But behind the moving curtain of what she calls "the hard things -- rock mountain and salt sea," she sees, sometimes far off and sometimes as close by as a veil or air, the power play of holy fire. This is a profound book about the natural world -- both its beauty and its cruelty -- the Pulitzer Prize-winning Dillard knows so well.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A book of great richness, beauty and power."-- "New York Times Book Review"
"[This] is a book of great richness, beauty and power and thus very difficult to do justice to in a brief review...The violence is sometimes unbearable, the language rarely less than superb. Dillard's description of the moth's death makes Virginia Woolf's go dim and Edwardian. One thinks of Gerard Manley Hopkins, among others--nature seen so clear and hard that the eyes tear...A rare and precious book."--
Frederick Buechner, "New York Times Book Review"

Annie Dillard has written twelve books, including in nonfiction *For the Time Being*, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, *Holy the Firm*, and *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dillard's slender little tome delves into very deep aspects of our selves and our sense of place. It explores the numinous in a very personal and meaningful way. Read this book.

I recently discovered Anne Dillard. What a find! She is my new favorite author. I must admit she must have a comma shake next to the keyboard because a sentence can run on for most of a paragraph! Anne's understanding of God runs just below the surface. She crafts a story from her experiences that explores the reality of God. My favorite this to do is sit down in the afternoon and just turn the afternoon over to Anne.

Truly a wonderful meditation on why the innocent who suffer are touched by God! This short book is worth twenty volumes devoted to philosophy or theology. I've read it many times and am still gaining hope and faith and enlightenment from it!

Dillard makes the classic God questions (top of the list: Why do bad things happen to good and innocent people?) new with the strength of her prose and imagery. Beautiful to read, this novella consumed some of two days of reading because I read and re-read to savor the language and absorb Dillard's message. Worthy read, and its strength is in the questions rather than the answers.

Touched my soul.

This small book is pretty heady and not for the faint at heart. Dillard writes of nature and theology beyond our imaginings. Beautifully written as is most all her work.

Annie Dillard is the very best.

I would have this book for the essay "God's Tooth" if for nothing else.

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