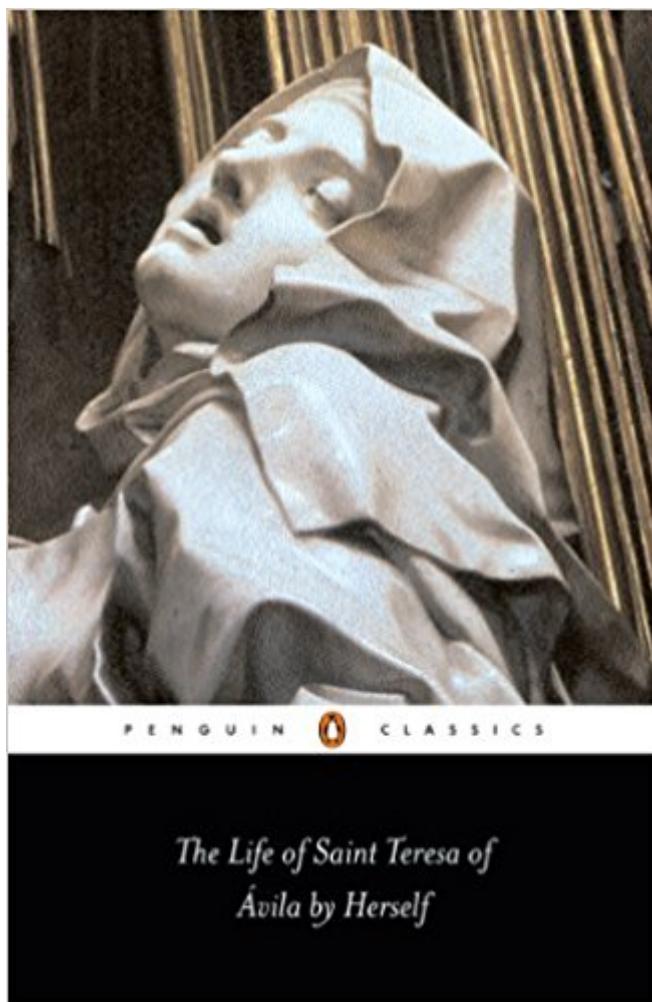


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# The Life Of Saint Teresa Of Avila By Herself (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

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. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Spanish

I love Sr. Teresa - she is like my own personal spirit guide :) I love that she writes conversationally and it is a very accessible style. She is not a holier than thou preachy kind of writer, nor is she so ivory tower intellectual that it takes you a month to decipher a single sentence. This book was my introduction to her writings. I struggled deeply for the first 1/3 of the book, but the rest of it was so phenomenal that I couldn't wait to get back to it. By the time I was done, there were tears of joy and all I could say in my notes was "wow". It is the story of her life, interspersed with topics of prayer. It is not, however, focused on meditation or prayer. It is mainly what the title says: Her life - which is terrific and interesting in and of itself. If you are looking for mediation and prayer check her "Interior Castle" (awesome book!), or for great reflections try Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis, or Introduction to the Devout Life by St Francis de Sales. All great works for the mystically/experientially inclined.

Perfect

I love it.

Good read. Used for class.

I had bought St. Teresa's other two books before this one. They were good, but I couldn't really get everything she was saying. Boy am I happy that I decided to buy her autobiography! She's totally

relatable, and her words are like butter to my heart! I highly suggest anyone at first looking into this Saint to read her autobiography first!

I wish more people could discover St. Teresa of Avils's charismatic spirituality. I love her!

Through her writings St Teresa teaches with great simplicity but deep insight profound truths about God. The more one looks and meditates about her teachings, more humility must be observed, because as St. Teresa we can only remain perplexed before the vastness of the mystery of God.

good

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