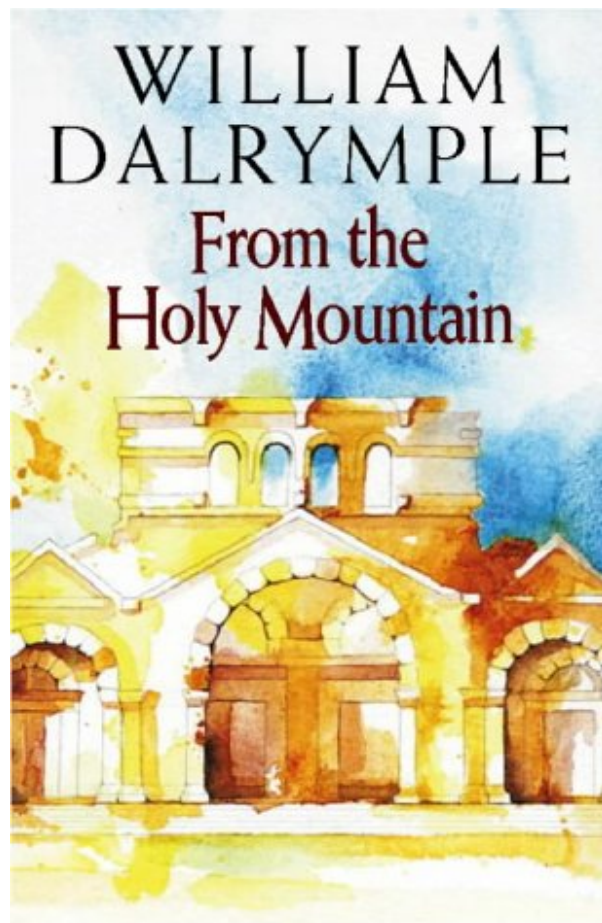


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"Elegant, poignant . . . courageous . . . pitting the idealism of the past against the hatred, dispossession, and denial of the present." --Karen Armstrong, author of History of God"

"This splendid book should take its rightful place on the same shelf as Chatwin's In Patagonia. [It is] rich with the poetry of antique places and transports the fascinated reader smoothly into a vanishing world . . . There are, finally, innumerable wonderful stories in From the Holy Mountain." --Michael Dirda, "The Washington Post Book World"

"Dalrymple is a born travel writer, with a nose for adventure and a reporter's healthy skepticism. His quirky, exhilarating mosaic will appeal to readers of all faiths." --"Publishers Weekly" (starred review)

About the Author

William Dalrymple's first book, 'In Xanadu', won the Yorkshire Post Best First Work Award. His second, 'City of Djinns', won the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award and the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award. His third, 'From the Holy Mountain', was awarded the Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award and shortlisted for the Duff Cooper Prize and the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award. He has also published a collection of his pieces about India, 'The Age of Kali', and three history books: 'White Mughals', which won the Wolfson Prize, 'The Last Mughal', which won the Duff Cooper Prize, and 'Nine Lives', which won the Asia House Literary Award.

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In the spring of 587 A.D., 2 men set out from the great desert monastery of St Theodosius, near Bethlehem. It was the start of an extraordinary journey across the entire Byzantine world, and William Dalrymple has followed in their footsteps.

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Now among my top favorite books

By Andrew Babb

Written as a great adventure story the Scotsman delivers a fantastic, humorous, and heart-wrenching tale wherein he follows the footprints of an exiled monk. Filled with quips from Orthodox and Catholic Christians in the Levant this story relates the sometimes perilous lives of Christians in the Middle East (made all the more heart-wrenching by his account of the perilous nature of the situation in Syria at the time and the now historic occurrences of the results of the Civil War that ravaged that country). The book can at times

seem to drag on but the rare instances of monotony are rewarded with moments for reflection, laughter, and weeping. The whole of the book is a roller-coaster that - at the end of which - one can not help but feel satisfied at having ridden.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Incredible read

By Ameer Hamza Adhia

I must say it is a remarkable book but it makes me sad just to read it. The places mentioned are either burning hell or just survived coups. Syria and Iraq are now under fire - but were very peaceful when written. There were still some Orthodox Christians left in those areas and they were safe. Sadly, salafists calling themselves ISIS and Muslims have almost wiped out these peaceful and important people.

This unfolding Middle-East tragedy - as you read this book you get goose kicks - is nothing new. In our times it is more prolonged and more vicious with Western world equally responsible for supporting such terrorists. This also makes this book immediate and noteworthy.

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Enjoyed the varied people that he encountered in his travels

By jabou

Kept my attention throughout the book. Enjoyed the varied people that he encountered in his travels. I learned a lot about life in the mideast.

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