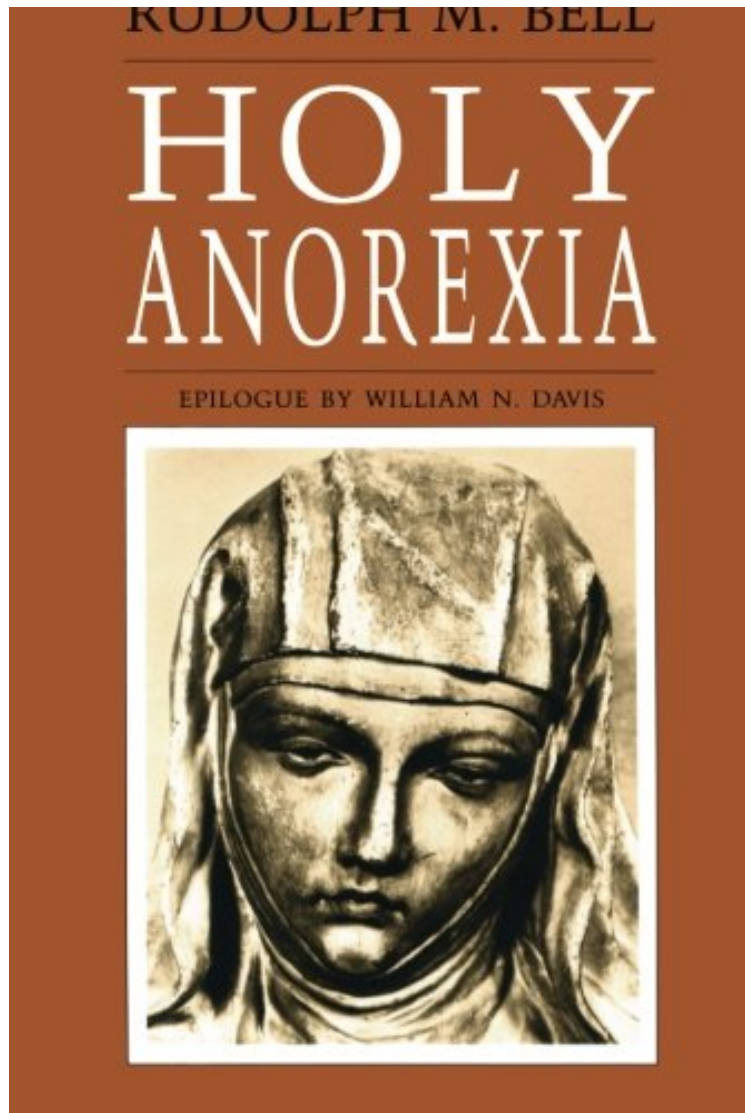


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Rudolph M. Bell

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Rudolph M. Bell : Holy Anorexia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holy Anorexia:

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StarsBy Mom de PlumeA bit too 'scholarly' for me, but interesting.

Is there a resemblance between the contemporary anorexic teenager counting every calorie in her single-minded pursuit of thinness, and an ascetic medieval saint examining her every desire? Rudolph M. Bell suggests that the answer is yes."Everyone interested in anorexia nervosa . . . should skim this book or study it. It will make you realize how dependent upon culture the definition of disease is. I will never look at an anorexic patient in the same way again."Howard Spiro, M.D., *Gastroenterology*"[This] book is a first-class social history and is well-documented both in its historical and scientific portions."Vern L. Bullough, *American Historical Review*"A significant contribution to revisionist history, which re-examines events in light of feminist thought. . . . Bell is particularly skillful in describing behavior within its time and culture, which would be bizarre by today's norms, without reducing it to the pathological."Mary Lassance Parthun, *Toronto Globe and Mail*"Bell is both enlightened and convincing. His book is impressively researched, easy to read, and utterly fascinating."Sheila MacLeod, *New Statesman*

From the Back CoverIs there a resemblance between the contemporary anorexic teenager in her single-minded pursuit of thinness, and an ascetic medieval saint examining her every desire? Both contemporary anorexics and 'holy anorexics' seek autonomy in culturally defined ideal states: energetic slenderness today, spiritual purity in the Middle Ages.About the AuthorRudolph M. Bell, professor of history at Rutgers University, is the author of a number of books in Italian history, among them *Fate and Honor, Family and Village: Demographic and Cultural Change in Rural Italy Since 1800*, *Holy Anorexia*, *How to Do It: Guides to Good Living for Renaissance Italians*, and *The Voices of Gemma Galgani: The Life and Afterlife of a Modern Saint* (with Cristina Mazzoni), all published by the University of Chicago Press.