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Rick Kennedy

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RICK KENNEDY



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A Short Life of Cotton Mather

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#425829 in Books Rick Kennedy 2015-07-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.97 x .21 x 5.851, .0 #File Name: 0802872115176 pages The First American Evangelical A Short Life of Cotton Mather Library of Religious Biography LRB | File size: 50.Mb

Rick Kennedy : The First American Evangelical: A Short Life of Cotton Mather (Library of Religious Biography (LRB)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First American Evangelical: A Short Life of Cotton Mather (Library of Religious Biography (LRB)):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book changes the perception of Cotton Mather's involvement in ...By John CalhounThis book changes the perception of Cotton Mather's involvement in the Salem Witch Trials completely. Urban Legend has him as an antagonist in this issue when in fact that is not true.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed reading this bookBy Jammie MeltonVery informational. I enjoyed reading this book.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cotton Mather was a great and typical Puritan pastorBy Rev. Luther C. PierceCotton Mather was a great and typical Puritan pastor, scholar and leader. His understanding of Christianity was standard for his time, as well as his opposition to the early stirrings of a more liberal interpretation of faith. Kennedy uses all of this as proof text for his Evangelical theology. In contrastmy liberal theology, which has developed out of the struggles of early Puritans. appreciates Mather's life and work without having to claim any exclusivity for his work. I am an New Englander of the Congregational tradition - which gives me some rights to Mather as well/

An accurate, sympathetic account of influential colonial Christian leader Cotton Mather Cotton Mather (1663-1728) was America's most famous pastor and scholar at the beginning of the eighteenth century. People today generally associate him with the infamous Salem witch trials, but in this new biography Rick Kennedy tells a bigger story: Mather, he says, was the very first American evangelical. A fresh retelling of Cotton Mather's life, this biography corrects misconceptions and focuses on how he sought to promote, socially and intellectually, a biblical lifestyle. As older Puritan hopes in New England were giving way to a broader and shallower Protestantism, Mather led a populist, Bible-oriented movement that embraced the new century the beginning of a dynamic evangelical tradition that eventually became a major force in American culture. Incorporating the latest scholarly research but written for a popular audience, *The First American Evangelical* brings Cotton Mather and his world to life in a way that helps readers understand both the Puritanism in which he grew up and the evangelicalism he pioneered.

Themelios "An engaging and insightful introduction."Kenneth Minkema inThe Catholic Historical "Rick Kennedy's lively take on Cotton Mather's extraordinary life is very welcome. . . . Not your grandfather's Mather."Presbyterian Outlook "Kennedy has written a sympathetic and insightful introduction to a generally unfairly maligned and undervalued figure in American history."Douglas A. Sweeney author ofThe American Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement "Cotton Mather is widely seen as a moralistic hypocrite, a one-dimensional bad guy we moderns love to hate. But in this lively new biography, he takes on flesh and blood and, more importantly, a heart. ... This courageous little book offers readers a better feel for Mather's vibrant, quirky, learned, evangelical spirituality than anything before."Margaret Bendroth author ofThe Spiritual Practice of Remembering "Few historical figures have been as misunderstood as Cotton Mather, roundly dismissed in our own time as the ultimate Puritan killjoy. Rick Kennedy's richly textured account reminds us why Mather still matters why we should care about, maybe even embrace, this complex man who made such an indelible impact on our religious world today."George M. Marsden author ofA Short Life of Jonathan Edwards "Mather's life is one of the most fascinating in all of American history. Rick Kennedy has done a fine job in providing a sympathetic, engaging, and yet brief account of such a many-sided and influential personality."Reiner Smolinski general editor of Cotton Mather'sBiblia Americana America's First Bible Commentary "In this charming biography, Cotton Mather emerges as the grandfather of American evangelicalism, who valiantly guided his community through troubled times. Kennedy enables us to look into the heart and soul of this Puritan pastor who adapted New England's old-time religion to the needs of a new age. This is a fresh and perceptive introduction to Mather's complex life."World Magazine "The author humbly avoids a judgmental tone toward Mather or the Puritans. He does not indulge in chronological snobbery and assume the tone of moral superiority typical of many other historians. Instead, Kennedy sets Mather in a historical context and highlights his strengths and weaknesses accordingly. . . . [He] tries to capture the evangelical heart of Mather, as a bridge builder from the Puritan era to the next wave of the Holy Spirit in the Great Awakening led by Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield."