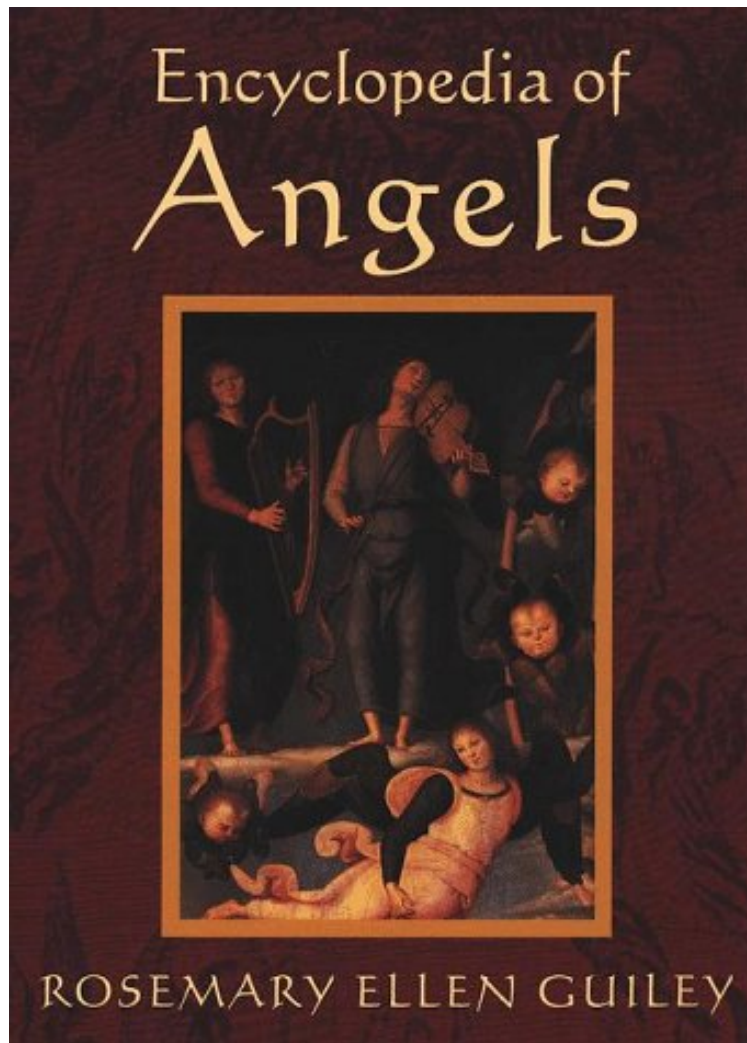


Encyclopedia of Angels

Rosemary Ellen Guiley

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Rosemary Ellen Guiley : Encyclopedia of Angels before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Angels:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book!!By CustomerIn general. I am satisfied with the book and rich history of Angels wide Range of folklore get me interested in wide range characters in jewish and Christianity too.Bible characters too. Step aside from witches get insight in Angelic history get me hook.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great Reference BookBy Carla S.This book is great for reference on the subject of angels. This is especially interesting to me as an artist and writer. I would recommend it for anyone's library.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bought as a GiftBy Courtney CottonMy brother loves researching mythology, history, and basically anything that an encyclopedia is useful for. He was particular about the style of book, and I spent

a while choosing the right one. It covers a good amount of material and has nice images to go with it. I haven't looked through it much, but he loves it, so I recommend it for anyone interested in detailed angelology.

Broad in its scope, this volume aims to demystify the subject of angels by drawing on research from mysticism, religion, mythology, alchemy, parapsychology, psychology, and philosophy.

"What we know about angels," writes Rosemary Ellen Guiley, writer and lecturer on spirituality and human potential, "comes through our otherworldly contact with them." To bolster her claim, Guiley includes stories of some well-known recipients of angel charms--Dorothy McLean, founder of Findhorn; psychoanalyst Carl Jung; poet and visionary William Blake; and American pilot Charles Lindbergh--in this compendious volume. Some might think of angels as our human pathway to the monotheistic God of our Western culture--a God who remains abstract and remote. All major cultures and religions, however, have intricately developed angel systems. Guiley covers all--comparing angels to analogous beings in non-western cultures in order to trace their evolution. The book is arranged alphabetically by topic, so readers can look up subjects such as angel hierarchy, individual angels, Judaic angelology, the supernatural manifestations of the Virgin Mary, and even--God forbid--sex with demons. The Encyclopedia of Angels is thoroughly researched and pleasantly illustrated with photographs of sculpture and reproductions of some of the great medieval, Renaissance, and contemporary works of "angel" art. Believers and skeptics alike will treasure this encyclopedia of information on a luminous and mysterious subject!From Library JournalGuiley (The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits, Facts on File, 1992) continues her reporting of the mysterious and unknown by delving into the celestial realm. In this latest entry in the growing number of books on angels (e.g., Angel, A to Z, LJ 11/15/95, and Know Your Angels, Mamre Pr., 1993), Guiley has compiled interdisciplinary angel information in readable citations, taking the reader on a journey into the evolution of the angel in Western thought and exploring the origins of angels, their manifestation in other cultures, and present angel philosophy. Entries rely on the definition of an angel as "a supernatural being who mediates between God and mortals." Significant angels are given full entries or grouped with similar angels with ample cross references, and biographical profiles of mystics and philosophers such as Geoffrey Hodson are also provided. This is a useful addition to the reference collection of any academic or larger public library.L. Kriz, West Des Moines P.L., Ia.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistAngels are big--especially nondenominational, kindhearted ones. Guiley is, according to the cover blurb, an author on "such subjects as prayer, healing, alternate states of consciousness, mysticism, alchemy, angels, dreams, reincarnation." She is a committed believer in angels. Her research has been diligent if not rigorous. Sources range between Fate magazine and The Golden Bough. Articles run from a paragraph or so to two or three two-column pages and cover everything from individual angels to philosophical schools--St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine are summed up in about five pages each. cursory treatment is given to tantric Buddhism (but no other Buddhist school), Islam, and Rudolf Steiner. There is a liberal sprinkling of minor errors, including defining choirs as "bands of singers," when a desk dictionary also defines a choir as a "division of angels." "Mormonism" is "better known as the Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints." Lucifer is referred to as a "proud man." Such slips lead one to a concern that if these easily-checked errors haven't been corrected, there are bigger ones that nonspecialists might not see but which could lead them into difficulty.The entry Extraterrestrials (ETs) discusses comparisons between angels and extraterrestrial beings, including speculations on the possible demonic nature of modern ETs, with their sex experiments and "men in black." Guiley makes some interesting speculations regarding Jungian archetypes, which crop up throughout the book. In general, however, the angels presented are the modern feel-good type, warning, helping, protecting (though she does present alternative explanations for the WWI Angels of Mons legend), and generally on humanity's side. Most articles include further readings, and there is a long bibliography. There is extensive cross-indexing and a separate index.The book itself is sturdy and will lie flat for copying. The layout is clear, and there is good use of both white space and varying typefaces. Illustrations are black-and-white and may not photocopy well. Many are copies of woodcuts with the usual blurring. Some illustrations are dark in both color and theme, but many are quite sentimental.This is not a work for a theological collection, but where popular spirituality has a following, it will be useful, especially at the price. For more rigorous but still accessible articles on many of the topics covered, The New Catholic Encyclopedia or Eliade's Encyclopedia of Religion [RBB O 1 96] would be more useful.