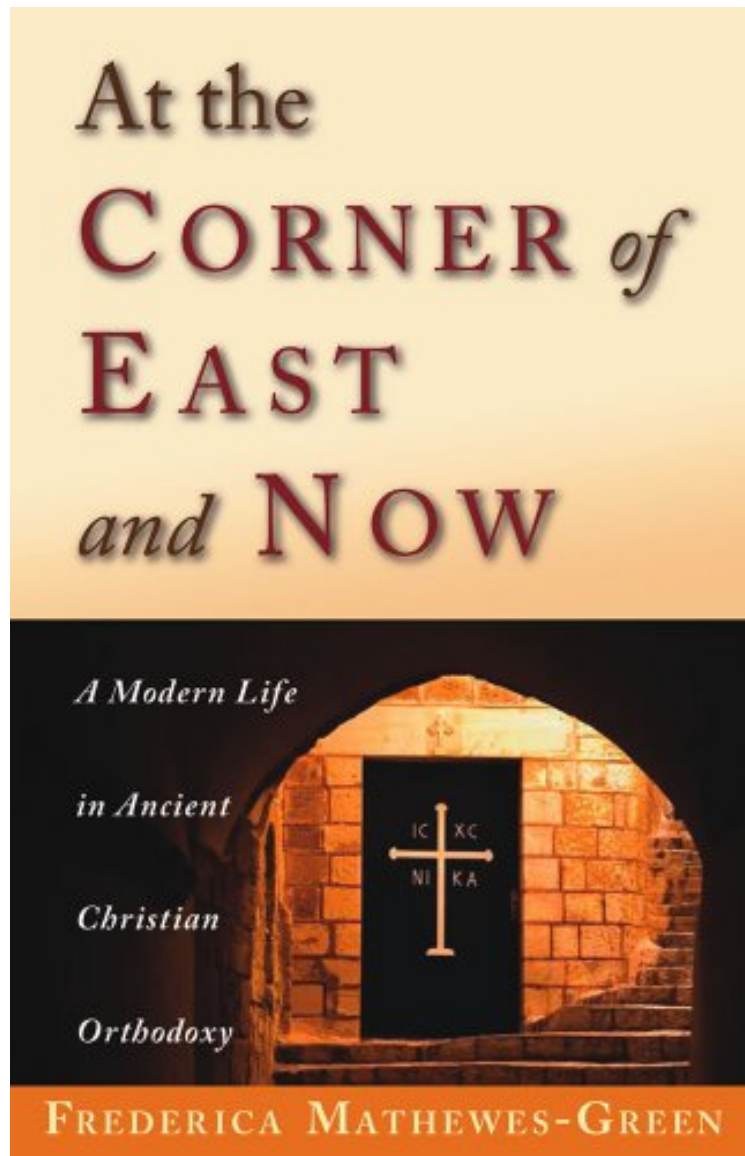


[Free] At the Corner of East and Now (English Edition)

At the Corner of East and Now (English Edition)

Von Frederica Mathewes-Green
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Von Frederica Mathewes-Green : At the Corner of East and Now (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At the Corner of East and Now (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Flawed But, At Times, WonderfulVon Ein KundeFrederica Mathewes-Green's latest offering, 'At the Corner of East and Now', is a sort-of sequel to her earlier brilliant book 'Facing East'. Like 'Facing East', it concerns the author's small Orthodox mission parish near Baltimore. While 'Facing East' took the format of a chronicle of one year in this small parish,

'Corner' takes a different perspective: that of the alternating juxtaposition of the timelessness of the Orthodox liturgy, on the one hand, with the 'here and now' of contemporary American culture. This parallels the position of the Church itself - as existing at the same time in 'chronos', or historical time, and in 'kairos', or the Eternal Now. This is a creative but ambitious goal, and the results, while uneven, at their best are extremely well-done. The most compelling parts of this book, ironically, are those that deal with the author's observations regarding contemporary American culture and society, done in the form of episodic vignettes of slices of American life from the author's perspective as an Orthodox Christian. Fresh and interesting insights abound in these sections of the book, which are enhanced by the author's keen wit and smooth writing style. The author successfully portrays the truth that, all claims to the contrary notwithstanding, one can lead an Orthodox life in the midst of contemporary America - albeit with a certain perspective. The book is at its least satisfying in its discussions, often comparative discussions, of the similarities and differences between Orthodoxy and other Christian Churches. In these sections, it appears almost as if a different voice is speaking from that one we hear in 'Facing East', and a surprising number of oversimplifications and derogatory remarks are parceled out to Roman Catholics and Protestants alike. One wonders, for example, whether it was really necessary for the author to describe the vision of Mary in traditional Roman Catholic piety as 'helpless' or 'vapid'. Similarly, descriptions of Orthodoxy are sometimes distressingly inaccurate (e.g., her contention that the famous interpretive canon of St Vincent of Lerins referring to consensus among the Holy Fathers implies that for Orthodox Christians 'the faith consensus of the gathered community is our guide') and oversimplified. One senses that, perhaps, the views of the author regarding non-Orthodox Christianity have become hardened somewhat in the past few years. In any case, while there are mollifying passages toward the end of the book, the tone in several sections will make this book needlessly difficult for non-Orthodox to read and relate to, which is, in my opinion, an unfortunate shortcoming. But, in spite of these flaws, this book contains a lot of valuable and interesting insights and, at its high points, is excellent writing. Read it, even if you have to hold your nose at those points where she bashes your non-Orthodox beliefs.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What happened to storytelling? Von Ein Kunde I loved Ms. Mathewes-Green's previous book, Facing East, for its wit, its lovable characters, and the lovely story of a small band of enthusiastic converts trying to build a church in a faith they are just getting to know. I looked forward eagerly to the sequel, hoping to learn the latest about Basil, Carol, Smiling Jeanie, and all my other favorites from Facing East. But in this book the storytelling has disappeared, and been replaced by tedious lectures about Orthodoxy. The few micro-anecdotes we get about the church are obviously platforms to launch into preaching, along the lines of: "Gary is swinging a censer full of incense. Incense is another reason why Orthodoxy is better than all other faiths. It was used by Christians for thousands of years until it was recently abandoned by ignorant Protestants who didn't understand what real worship is." (Okay, I made that up, but that's how the book felt to me.) My advice: if you're looking for stories about what it's like to be an Orthodox convert, read Facing East. If you want an introduction to the Orthodox faith, read The Orthodox Church by Kallistos Ware. The money you save by not buying Corner Of East And Now should be enough to buy both of those.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Informative and fun to read Von Ein Kunde I loved this author's last book, Facing East, but found this book just as good. The last book was her own story, while this one is a series of topic-related stories (in the vein of Kathleen Norris). I loved as she talked about her experiences at a Christian rock concert, her views on all-male clergy, her descriptions and explanations of Christian Orthodoxy, etc. I'm not Orthodox, but could live vicariously through Frederica's fine story-telling. She's a terrific writer, and this is a terrific book.

Kurzbeschreibung Acclaimed author Frederica Mathewes-Green takes us through a typical Divine Liturgy in her little parish of Holy Cross in Baltimore, setting of her well-loved book Facing East. Interspersed with reflections on the liturgy and the Orthodox faith are accounts of adventures around the country. In all the places she visits and all the people she meets, Frederica finds insights about faith, American life, and what it means to be human, and she shares these insights with the wit, pathos, and folksy friendliness that have made her one of the most beloved spiritual writers in America.

deThe wonderful title of this book gives a glimpse into its subject: a life at the crossroads of everyday life in America and the timeless rituals in a Christian Orthodox service. Full of information about this ancient church, Mathewes-Greene--author of Facing East and a columnist for Christianity Today--uses a style that is both quirky and intellectual, moving easily from the conversational ("this wasn't one of those woo-woo spiritual experiences where everything goes misty") to references to great Orthodox theologians and rich, Annie Dillard-like prose. One example is her brief description of a young man she saw in California who believed he was Christ: "This is just someone's boy, someone's dreamer, who grabbed a sheet out of the linen closet and walked out of the suburbs, a nice young man breaking someone's heart, lost and gliding over the beautiful Santa Rosa Mountains in a private plane of bliss." While bearing the hallmarks of a fairly recent convert to the faith (some readers will have to adjust to her celebration of orthodoxy at the expense of both Catholicism and Protestantism), the book makes a fine introduction to orthodoxy for contemporary readers. --Doug Thorpe

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