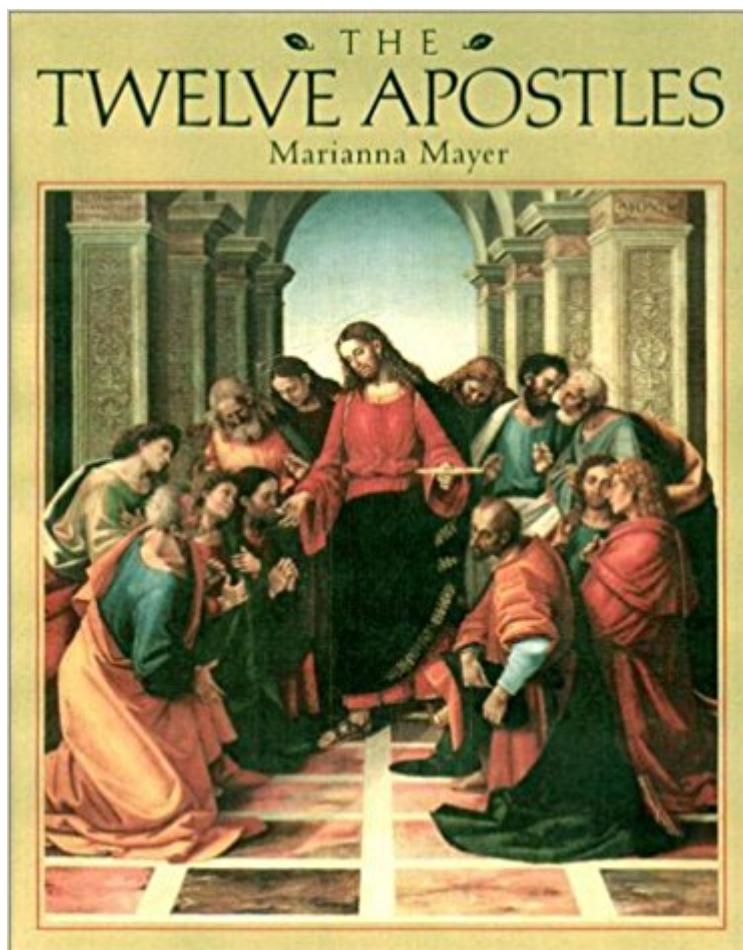


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The Twelve Apostles



Synopsis

Book by Mayer, Marianna

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this illuminating picture-book reference, Mayer shines the spotlight on the 12 specially chosen associates of Jesus, using the same warm storytelling voice and elegant design that distinguished her *Young Jesus of Nazareth* and *Young Mary of Nazareth*. Drawing on the Gospels as well as apocrypha and legend, Mayer serves up brief individual profiles, so that each man appears distinct, with his own traits, background and contributions. Readers will appreciate the concise explanations of the relationships among the apostles and how each was selected by Jesus to assist in spreading his teachings. Also enlightening is the inclusion of the apostle's feast day and the symbols with which he is most often associated. However, there are slight inconsistencies in the structure. The design affords each apostle his own spread (Judas and his replacement share theirs), their names in gold ink headers implying that each entry can stand alone, like those in an encyclopedia. In some cases the profiles are complete in and of themselves (for example, both the passage for James the Elder and the adjacent entry on John the Evangelist mention that the two are brothers). Details in other profiles are clarified only in a subsequent spread (the entry on Peter refers to the location of Peter and Andrew's house, but does not explain that they are brothers and that the house is in Galilee). The striking presentation pairs the biographical text with inset art, then faces both with a full-page portrait; as in Mayer's other Bible-inspired works, the illustrations consist of reproductions of European paintings. The choices render the disciples as very real and very human,

and place them within a venerable Western tradition. All ages. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-8-Mayer's Young Jesus of Nazareth (1999) and Young Mary of Nazareth (1998, both Morrow) portray figures of general interest. The 12 apostles are a bit more specialized, and Mayer's text, one page per apostle, does little to widen their appeal. The account of Peter, for example, does not mention his wife or mother-in-law troubles, his attempt to walk on water, or the peculiar form of his death. It underplays the drama of his denial of Christ, and while informing readers that the location of his house is still marked today by a basilica, it fails to say where that church is, where he died, or that he is the patron of Rome. There are inadequate notes on each apostle's symbol: James is not accorded his pilgrim's staff or cockleshell; Thomas's T square is not explained. The often grim deaths these men suffered are generally omitted, even when key to their iconography; Thomas's twinship and the psychology of Judas are not discussed. The selection of paintings is enticing: two per apostle, from famous artists (Poussin, D rer, El Greco, de la Tour, Giotto) to unpredictable (Tissot, Dagnan-Bouveret, van Orley). Confusingly, however, the symbols Mayer attributes to the saints often differ from the objects they hold in the paintings. Filled with beautiful images, but not as resonant a book as its predecessors. Patricia Lothrop-Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The pictures in this book are so beautiful and the write up about each apostles is just the right amount of information to get started learning about these great men.

This is a lovely book with lovely images and descriptions. Each apostles holy day is listed as well as their symbol and how they are acclaimed as saints in the Catholic Church. This was a former library book, and the cover is still in great shape with its protective plastic and the entire book is in fine condition. It was well packaged and arrived very quickly. I am so happy with this purchase.

Good book!

Made for kids

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