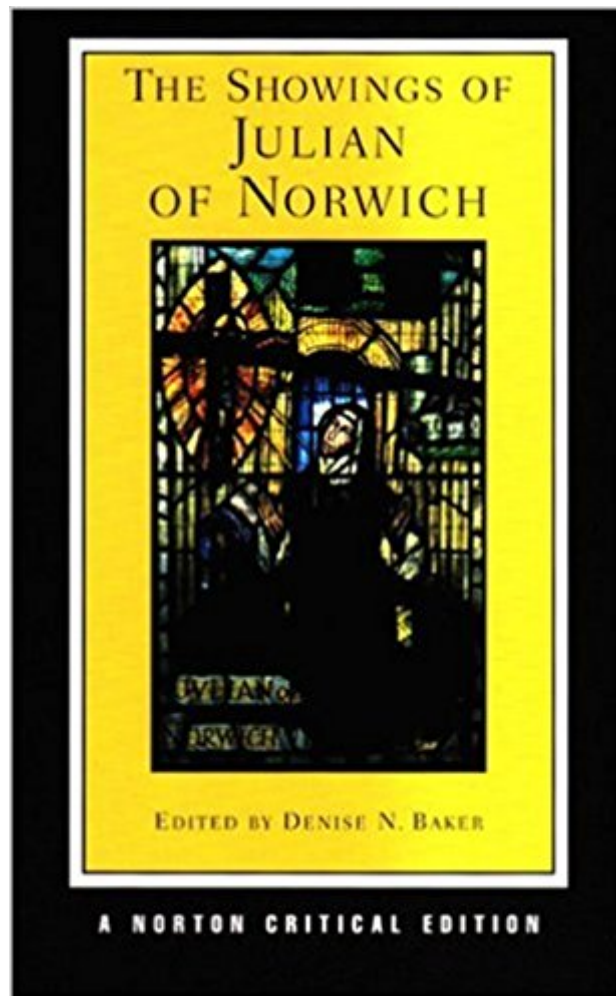




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The Showings Of Julian Of Norwich (Norton Critical Editions)



Synopsis

Julian of Norwich is among the most intriguing religious visionaries in Christian history. Carefully edited for the undergraduate reader, this Norton Critical Edition includes an informed introduction, focusing on Julian's theology and preparing students to understand the complex, controversial themes of the text, particularly Julian's solution to the problem of evil in Revelation XIII and XIV. Paragraph divisions have been organized to emphasize the thematic units of each chapter, and the sentences have been punctuated for clarity. The text included is a Middle English edition, based on the Paris manuscript (1580-1650) of the long text, with language akin to Chaucer's and therefore more accessible than other Middle English editions. "Contexts" includes contemporary texts that help students better understand Julian's originality, including selections from works by Margery Kempe, Augustine, Aelred of Rievaulx, and Walter Hilton. "Criticism" brings together interpretations that address the themes and style of the Showings by Sandra McEntire, Lynn Staley, B. A. Windeatt, and David Aers, among others. A Selected Bibliography is also included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Denise N. Baker is Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She is the author of Julian of Norwich's Showings: From Vision to Book as well as numerous articles on mysticism and other topics in medieval literature and culture. She is the editor of *Inscribing the Hundred Years' War in French and English Cultures*.

For the first half of the book comprising Julian's message, I would have given 5 points, but the appendices are not on this level. Julian's text is original and definitely inspiring. The way she deals with Church dogma is ingenious, as she never denies it but makes credible statements that transcend Church teaching without denying it. She is, as far as I can know, a genuine mystic who experienced bona-fide "private revelations" that enrich a reader's spirituality despite the time gap of more than six centuries. The 14th-century English is not always easy to understand in depth, but the effort is very worthwhile. Her statements on Christ, the Trinity, the soul and redemption are master-pieces of lay theology.

this is a great religious book. Julian of Norwich asked God to suffer more in order to see him and understand him and this is her story. I cannot imagine living like she did but she was doing it to be 'closer to God.' I think that once you overcome the difficulties of the book (it's in mad crazy old english) that it is a good book.

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