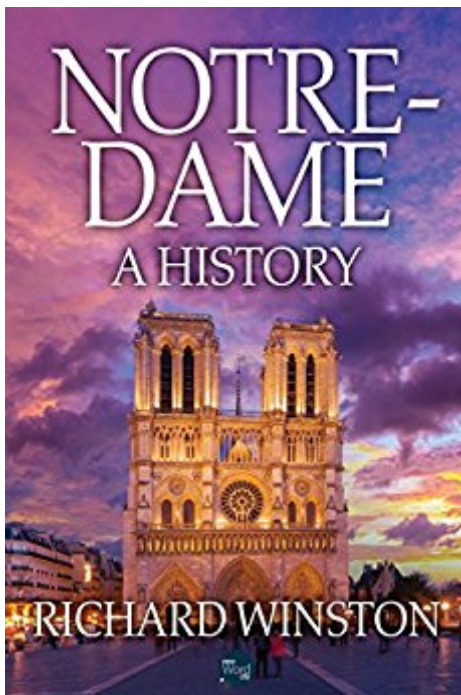## The book was found

Notre-Dame: A History

Synopsis

The "aged queen of French cathedrals," Victor Hugo called Notre-Dame. And ancient it was - nearly 700 years had passed since the Bishop Maurice de Sully decided that Paris needed a cathedral worthy of France's capital. "Every face, every stone of the venerable monument," Hugo continued, "is a page not only of the history of the country but also of the history of science and art." Here, National Book Award Winner Richard Winston tells the dramatic story of the building of the great cathedral and the history that was made there - from the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the crowning of Napoleon to Charles de Gaulle's celebration of the liberation of Paris from the Nazis.

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Customer Reviews

If you read or saw and enjoyed Ken Follett's bestseller The Pillars of the Earth, you will appreciate this history of Paris's Notre-Dame, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the world.Richard Winston writes with the authority of a long-time student of medieval life. He takes readers behind the scenes to the creation of the church - from its great flying buttresses and nave to its stained-glass windows and gargoyles.He reveals much about the church

that was new to me - from its Roman roots to its desecration during the French Revolution.I give this intelligent book five stars.

Here, from National-Book-Award-winner Richard Winston, is the little-told story of ParisÃ¢Â Â™s famed Notre-Dame Cathedral. Two hundred years in the building - and hundreds more as a centerpiece of French history - the great, medieval church is a must-see for tourists, and this book is a must-read for them as well as armchair travelers.There is much to enjoy here. As with WinstonÃ¢Â Â™s other books - I read his biography of Charlemagne and his history of Hagia Sophia (thank you BookBub) - the writing is first-rate. He vividly recreates the kings and queens, abbots and popes who played a role in the construction of the Ã¢Â Âœcathedral of cathedrals.Ã¢Â Â• And I learned a lot - for example, the role that writer Victor Hugo played in Notre-DameÃ¢Â Â™s restoration.Highly recommended.

An Uplifting BookRichard WinstonÃ¢Â Â™s account of famed Notre-Dame is a worthwhile read for her place in history. As he eloquently notes, Ã¢Â ÂœShe is neither the tallest nor the biggest nor the most typical of the great Gothic churches of France. Yet she remains the cathedral of cathedrals, the epitome of the Gothic, the symbol of Paris and therefore of France.Ã¢Â Â•I especially enjoyed the early history of the church and how the great building came to be and learned a lot. For example, Notre-Dame would not be Notre-Dame as we know it without the inspiration of Abbot SugerÃ¢Â Â™s Church of Saint-Denis. Ã¢Â ÂœThere were no real precedents for the kind of church that Suger wanted to build,Ã¢Â Â• Winston writes. Ã¢Â ÂœThe crusaders, whose tales he eagerly listened to, had returned with descriptions of the resplendent churches of Constantinople, above all Hagia Sophia with its fabulous domes. Not that Suger thought of erecting domes; that would have been too violent a break with the tradition of the churches he had seen, and the techniques would probably have been beyond the capacities of his architects. But he wanted a similar effect of height and magnificence; he wanted vast spaces so that there would be room for all, and ample light to show to best effect the gold, gems, marble, and porphyry with which he hoped to fill his new church. For Suger loved brightness, glitter, light. And out of that love, combined with the mystique of royalty, the exaltation of mystical theology, and the long history of experimentation by the builders of Romanesque cathedrals and abbey churches, a new style was born, an architecture dominated by height and light: the Gothic.Ã¢Â Â•Inspiring prose and an inspiring book for all history fans, not just those interested in architecture.

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