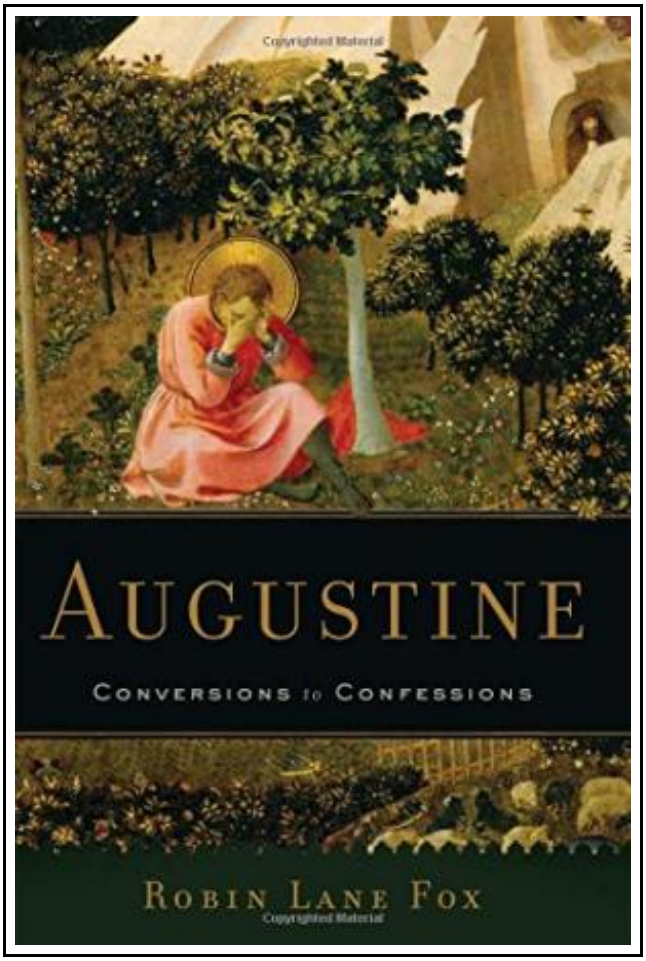
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AUGUSTINE: CONVERSIONS TO CONFESSIONS

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Basic Books. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. (A New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice) Saint Augustine is one of the most influential figures in all of Christianityhis Confessions, a vivid description of his journey toward conversion and baptism, still serves as a model of spirituality for Christians around the worldyet his path to sainthood was by no means assured. Born in 354 to a pagan father and a Christian mother, Augustine spent the first 30 years of his life struggling to understand the nature of God and his world. He learned about Christianity as a child but was never baptized, choosing instead to immerse himself in the studies of rhetoric, Manicheanism, and then Neoplatonism, all the while indulging in a life of lust and greed. The author of The Classical World and Alexander the Great, Robin Lane Fox here re-creates Augustine's early life with unparalleled insight, showing how his quest for knowledge and faith finally brought him to Christianity and a life of celibacy. "This narrative of the first half of Augustine's life conjures the intellectual and social milieu of the late Roman Empire with a Proustian relish for detail."NYTBR"This biography of the Church Father displays an eclectic, discursive approach. New delights, such as an exploration of Cicero's lost Hortensius, beloved by Augustine and pieced together by scholars through scattered mentions in the ancient record, add surprising shadings to Augustine's personality. Lane Fox sees his subject in intimate yet global terms: Augustine's disenchantment with politics, the dubious powers of rhetoric, and his own skill at navigating the system draws comparisons with Tolstoy, Byron, and Joyce. Most engaging is the portrait of Augustine's complex relationship with his lively, wine-drinking, social-striving mother, Monnica, from whom he 'imbibed the name of Christ,' and learned to 'retain it deeply within'."The New...

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