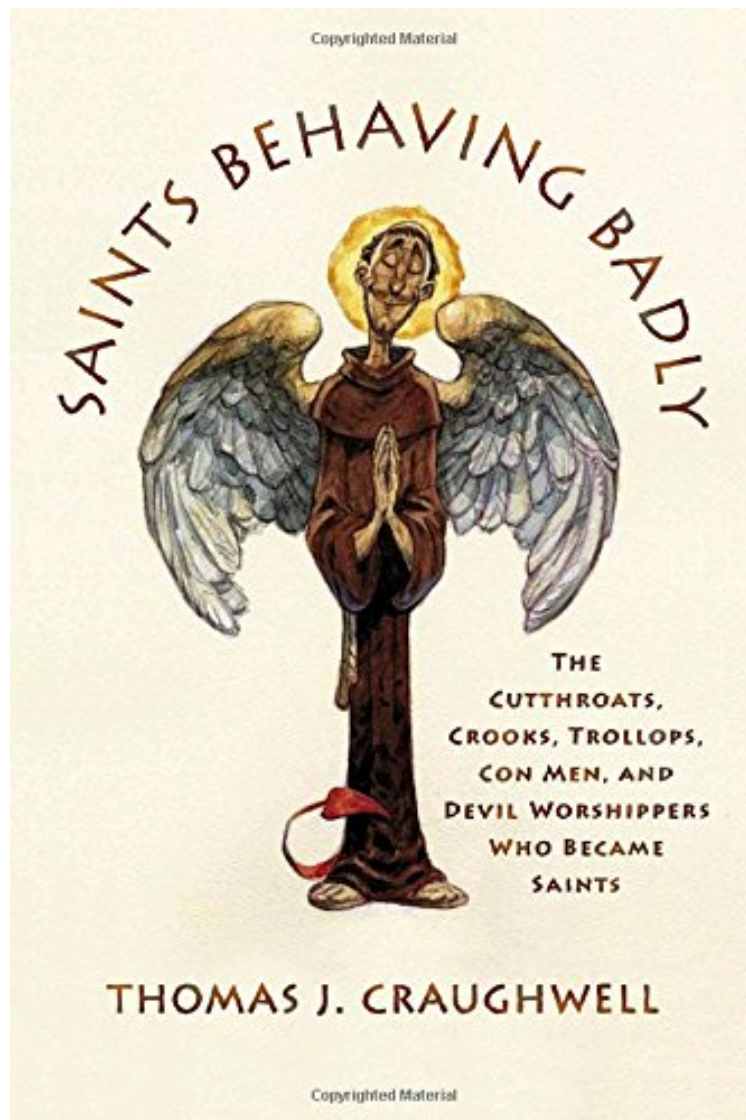


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Saints Behaving Badly: The Cutthroats, Crooks, Trollops, Con Men, and Devil-Worshippers Who Became Saints

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#216679 in Books Thomas J Craughwell 2006-09-19 2006-09-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .76 x 5.20l, .61 #File Name: 0385517203208 pages Saints Behaving Badly The Cutthroats Crooks Trollops con Men and Devil Worshippers Who Became Saints | File size: 51.Mb

Thomas J. Craughwell : Saints Behaving Badly: The Cutthroats, Crooks, Trollops, Con Men, and Devil-Worshippers Who Became Saints before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saints Behaving Badly: The Cutthroats, Crooks, Trollops, Con Men, and Devil-Worshippers Who Became Saints:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "People behaving badly who went on to become saints" By Força Porto! The title is a bit deceptive. This is actually a book about people who behaved badly and then went on to achieve sainthood, normally after a significant conversion experience. As an example, it gives a nice brief biography/hagiography of St. Augustine of Hippo, who before converting to his mother's Christianity (and going on to write not just his Confessions but also the Church-changing "The City of God"), led a remarkably loose life before settling down with just a single unmarried lover. The stories are enjoyably written, and give hope to some of us that just maybe we can become better people too. [I admit I'm running out of time...] Recommended. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The saint is not the one that never fell, but rather the one that kept getting up. By CDSI was hoping to have this book as bedside reading for awhile. However Craughwell's writing style is so engaging that I kept finding excuses to keep reading, and I finished the book over the course of just a few days. The saints featured in this book range from those that are well known such as St. Matthew and St. Francis, to those that are somewhat more obscure such as St. Genesius and St. Fabiola. The profiles are arranged chronologically. The stories vary widely, sometimes the saint's life was indeed very sinful and colorful, other times it was more a matter of small but persistent flaws which needed to be overcome. In many cases, Craughwell couched placed the saint in his or her historical context, and this really helps the reader to gain a fuller picture of the situation. Craughwell really makes these men and women come alive, and he makes them easy to relate to. Oftentimes people think that saints are rarefied individuals which are scarcely human, and that sanctity is something only a select few can aspire to. This book shows just how human the saints are and gives us hope that we can all aspire to follow in their footsteps towards the life of grace. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A hoot! By pgw! This book was a real hoot for me to read. I'm not Catholic, but I am Christian and enjoy learning about the Church in all ages. This book is full of stories of people who started out VERY BADLY in life and managed to end up being venerated by the Catholic church as saints. Of course, as I ponder life, I realize we all behave badly at times. That's why I'm a Christian -- I, too, need forgiveness. This book is a fun read.

Saints are not born, they are made. And many, as *Saints Behaving Badly* reveals, were made of very rough materials indeed. The first book to lay bare the less than saintly behavior of thirty-two venerated holy men and women, it presents the scandalous, spicy, and sleazy detours they took on the road to sainthood. In nineteenth- and twentieth-century writings about the lives of the saints, authors tended to go out of their way to sanitize their stories, often glossing over the more embarrassing cases with phrases such as, "he/she was once a great sinner." In the early centuries of the Church and throughout the Middle Ages, however, writers took a more candid and spirited approach to portraying the saints. Exploring sources from a wide range of periods and places, Thomas Craughwell discovered a veritable rogues gallery of sinners-turned-saint. There's St. Olga, who unleashed a bloodbath on her husband's assassins; St. Mary of Egypt, who trolled the streets looking for new sexual conquests; and Thomas Becket, who despite his vast riches refused to give his cloak to a man freezing to death in the street. Written with wit and respect (each profile ends with what inspired the saint to give up his or her wicked ways) and illustrated with amusing caricatures, *Saints Behaving Badly* will entertain, inform, and even inspire Catholic readers across America.

From Publishers Weekly The stories Catholics often hear about the saints can give the impression these people emerged from the womb with halos. Craughwell, a well-respected Catholic diocesan newspaper columnist, provides the rest of the story. His semi-irreverent collection assembles 29 sinners-cum-saints from Christian history in an enjoyable and riveting account of their lives and times. The table of contents reads like a most-wanted list: thieves, embezzlers, murderers, cardsharps, and even a warmonger. Some, such as the apostle Matthew, a former tax collector, will be familiar to readers. The brief biographies of the more obscure saints, however, are often the most fascinating to read. Craughwell introduces us to intriguing figures like St. Moses the Ethiopian, a violent gang leader who embraced a life of fasting and prayer after seeking shelter with monks in the Egyptian desert in the fourth century. St. Alipius, a student of another notorious sinner, St. Augustine, was "obsessed with blood sports." Craughwell does not dilute his belief that it is only through divine grace that these women and men were able to overcome their self-centeredness and redirect their lives for a greater purpose. His tone is occasionally patronizing, but the take-home point is vital: while we are all sinners, there is always hope. (Sept. 19) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Saints aren't born they're made; out of, as Craughwell's sketches of 28 of them demonstrate, oh-so-imperfect human beings, some well-known--St. Augustine, St. Patrick, St. Columba, St. Thomas Becket, St. Francis of Assisi--many others not. They include all manner of thieves (St. Dismas), bigamists (St. Fabiola), egotists (St. Ignatius of Loyola), and even the occasional Viking conqueror (St. Olaf). Craughwell provides biographical detail and, of greater interest, discussion of how particular saints have appealed to a collective sense of right and wrong and notice of how some saints have entered pop culture in modern guise (such as the St. Dismas-like hero of the movie *The Hoodlum Priest*). The saint among these 28 whose story is the most moving is probably the Venerable Matt Talbot (1856-1925), a chronic alcoholic from Dublin who quit drinking cold turkey to pursue a truly saintly, humble life thereafter. June Sawyers Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Finally a

book that reveals the saints as they truly were before grace intruded. Here are all your favorite intercessors with their venal, cranky, obnoxious, murderous tendencies intact. Destroying centuries of pious legends, Thomas Craughwell has written a darned inspiring book about real saints. If these folks can make the cut, maybe there's hope for the rest of us." —Raymond Arroyo, New York Times bestselling author of *Mother Angelica* and EWTNews Director