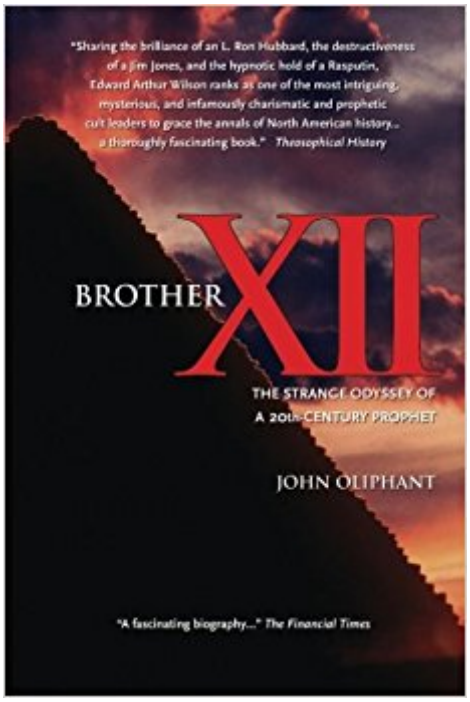
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Brother XII:The Strange Odyssey Of A 20th-century Prophet



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Synopsis

"As Mercury dwelleth near the Sun, so I abide in the heart of my Lord. My feet run upon His errands and by my mouth are His words spoken." Thus wrote Brother XII in the preface to The Three Truths, describing his role as the divinely-ordained agent of an ancient mystical Brotherhood known as the Great White Lodge. As the agent of this mysterious fraternity, Edward Arthur Wilson, aka Brother XII, a slight, soft-spoken former English sea-captain, embarked on a dramatic and sensational career that established him as one of the most fascinating figures in the history of modern religion. Ã Â Brother XII: The Strange Odyssey of a 20th-century Prophet chronicles the life and exploits of the enigmatic figure who established a utopian community in southern British Columbia in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The tales of gold, sex and black magic associated with Brother XII and his flamboyant mistress, a whip-wielding devotee of ritual magic with the pulp-fiction name of Madame Z, have gripped people's imaginations for years, and the story has been described as a Gone with The Wind of the occult, an evocative mixture of the sacred and profane. Though other religious figures may be better known, for pure drama, nothing rivals the story of Brother XII. Though Brother XII largely fell through the cracks of history, his amazing chronicle is being rediscovered, for it rings with contemporary relevance; not only was he a prototypical cult leader, he was a genuine mystic and seer, while also writing on political issues in a way that eerily foreshadows the world today. Brother XII was both a forerunner of the New Age and one of the few spiritual teachers of his time to give expression to the geopolitical and conspiratorial concerns that dominate the cultural debate today. Both mystic and mountebank, seer and charlatan, he was a complex, contradictory individual, the ultimate "man of mystery."The story of Brother XII features an intriguing cast of characters who find themselves irresistibly drawn to the power of this classic rogue messiah, a spiritual anti-hero possessed of a Nietzschean will to power. After the destruction of his colony, Brother XII and Madame Z fled with nearly half-a-million dollars in gold, outwitting the authorities and escaping justice, in many respects, a Bonnie and Clyde of the occult. Brother XII's fate is uncertain, for his death in Switzerland remains a matter of speculation. For all that is known about him and his colorful exploits, he's still an elusive figure, leaving his metaphysical teachings and the provocative legend that has grown up around him as his legacy. Praise for Brother XII: The Strange Odyssey of a 20th-century ProphetÃ Â Ã Â "I found myself totally absorbed...a book that will become a classic of its kind. I know of no more fascinating or better researched study of a 'false messiah.'" Ã Â From the Foreword by Colin Wilson Ã Â "A tremendously exciting story of the religious mania in extreme form. Brother XII is a type who recurs throughout human history, and Oliphant provides not only a great horror tale, but a warning as to how we can

recognize such types and be armed against them. I heartily recommend this book." Ã Â Robert Anton Wilson Ã Â "Brother XII is a fascinating read!" Ã Â William Gibson Ã Â "Sharing the brilliance of an L. Ron Hubbard, the destructiveness of a Jim Jones, and the hypnotic hold of a Rasputin, E. A. Wilson ranks as one of the most intriguing, mysterious, and infamously charismatic and prophetic cult leaders to grace the annals of North American history...a well-documented...thoroughly fascinating book." Theosophical History

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sex, sadism, black magic and mystery upon mystery. It sounds like the recipe for a Stephen King potboiler, and author John Oliphant has made the most of it. The difference is that Oliphant s Brother XII is a true story...a marvelous web of suspense and intrigue...riveting stuff." --The Vancouver Sun"An arresting narrative...sweeps the reader irresistibly into the story...Brother XII may or may not have died in Switzerland, but one thing is certain: he has never been more alive than in the pages of John Oliphant s biography...a mesmerizing book." --Books in CanadaBrother XII provides an absorbing inside view of a complex and fascinating figure. The striking parallels to contemporary self-proclaimed agents of the Great White Brotherhood give this book a timeliness and importance that should bring it a wide audience." --Gnosis

JOHN OLIPHANT first heard the story of Brother XII while sailing in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. He tracked down surviving members of the colony, located many of Brother XII's personal papers and traveled to Switzerland to investigate the mystery of Wilson's death in

his pursuit of the truth about this remarkable yet flawed spiritual leader. John Oliphant's Brother XII website is located at BrotherXII.com

The night that I finished reading this book, I had some very strange dreams. I suppose that the book made such an impression on me that it wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t unnatural that I should dream about Brother XII, but it was all so real to me and the impression of the Brother XII figure in the dream was so vivid and dramatic that I almost wondered in the morning if I might have been one of Brother XIIÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s mistresses in a past life.I know it sounds hard to believe, yet Brother XII was always saying that those who were attracted to his work had a past-life connection with him, so maybe that was true in my own case? It seems far out and yet maybe not? The dream made it very real for me why women of a spiritual inclination might find him irresistible.I was totally impressed by the research in this book. It was incredibly detailed and was written in such a way that you really felt as if you were a part of the story. I identified with many of the characters who fell under Brother XIIÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s spell.The author asked some very intriguing questions at the end of the book. I liked his technique of asking questions because it definitely drew you into the story and made you think. There are a lot of unanswered questions about Brother XII, but thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s all part of the mystery of his life. He seemed to purposefully shroud himself in mystery and create a myth about himself as the infallible spiritual teacher.After reading the book and becoming so personally involved in the story, I now think that I would have probably joined Brother XIIÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s group if I had been alive at the time. My dream of Brother XII was of a man that I both feared and admired. In the dream, I gave myself to him completely, much like his disciples must have done.I now understand why Brother XIIÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s followers were so devoted to him and surrendered their lives to him. Once one makes that commitment, there is no turning back. This book made a deep impression on me. My case may be unusual, but IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m sure that any reader will find this book fascinating and will always remember the story of Brother XII.

An interesting read. Competently written and well-researched.

Your friend hands you a book and imperatively tells you to read it -- you quickly scan the cover and make a value judgement: the artwork looks too mystical, somehow too fortean. You think, Brother XII? What or who is that? You donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t really care to know and hand the book back to him.Your friend shows you the praising blurb by William Gibson on the back cover. You say to your friend, THAT William Gibson? The Matrix, internet-creator, cyberpunk author supreme? He likes

it?!Your curiosity is piqued and you flip open and start reading the first words of Chapter One -- the literary acid test to determine the cost-benefit of your time: if the first sentence is arousing, you read the first paragraph, and if that passes muster, you read the entire page -- but by end of the first page you are hopelessly hooked, and have to buy a copy on for yourself.Who IS this Brother XII, anyway?Brother XII, the eponymously-titled biography of a 20th-century prophet -- Edward Arthur Wilson -- is John OliphantÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s masterpiece, a riveting and stylishly well-written thriller that reads more like fiction, one you wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t be able to put down from page one.It captures the spirit of Hemingway, with his worldliness and sense of adventure and travel; is steeped in International politics and courtroom intrigue; and is wonderfully-satisfying melodrama, in that Man vs. Man way which all the truly great books are written. Brother XII is suspenseful and builds to a climax and is undoubtedly a piÃƒÂ¨ce de rÃƒÂ©sistance of biography.Why and how did Wilson become a theosophical prophet in todayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s modern world, ensnaring blue-bloods and future presidents and wealthy patrons? OliphantÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s brilliantly arresting capture of the cultish intoxication of WilsonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s charisma is key to answering this question.

As an avid reader of the history of metaphysics and occult science and the many fascinating characters who have made their marks over the centuries, I thoroughly loved Brother XII. This book totally grabbed me from the moment I started reading it. It starts slowly as it lays out the impoverished conditions and circumstances of its protagonist, a retired mariner named Edward Arthur Wilson, who will later take the name Brother XII.But the story keeps building. The intensity kept increasing as I became more and more involved in the strange life of Brother XII and the people he affected in so many different ways. As a Canadian, living on the Pacific coast where much of the drama of the story takes place, I was utterly astonished how little I had previously heard of this story which unfolded about two hours from where I now make my home.I became completely immersed in the dramatic events and reversals of fortune that Brother XII experienced in his ambitious quest to change the course of human history.Brother XII was a remarkable man and IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m still surprised he is not more well-known. As the author says, he ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“fell through the cracks of history.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t think of any other spiritual teacher who was so focused on changing the world through political action.One might not agree with Brother XIIÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s politics, but he was certainly a big thinker and his political aspirations were some of the most interesting parts of the book for me.I congratulate the author for crafting such an excellent book and bringing to life so many great scenes and intriguing characters. The images are vivid and the story is compelling.I especially liked the inclusion of the

many original documents that are quoted throughout the text. I would have loved to be able to examine them in person and hold them in my hands. They really give this book a ring of authenticity and the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“feelÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• of history. The authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s research for this biography must have been an engrossing experience.I recommend this book as one of the most interesting biographies of a modern occult figure that I have ever read. It kept me thinking about Brother XII even after I had finished it. Who was Brother XII? I still donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know. This is no fault of the book. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s part of what makes this story so fascinating.

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