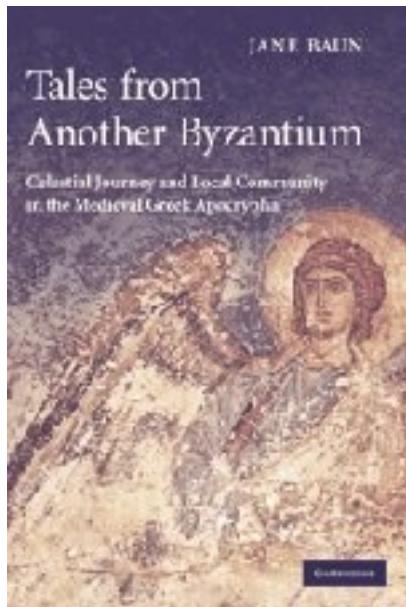


Tales from Another Byzantium



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This study uses a slightly unusual source, the apocalypse, to try to get closer to the mind of the mid Byzantine rural peasant. The apocalypse genre describes a journey through heaven and hell, discussing sin and virtue along the way. The book provides an in-depth analysis of two specific examples, the Apocalypse of the Theotokos and the Apocalypse of Anastasia which date to the ninth to eleventh centuries. This writing is very much part of low rather than high culture, and offers considerable imaginative scope, so that a window is provided on the lives and thought of ordinary citizens of the empire, far from Constantinople and the more usually discussed court culture. The book includes translations of the two apocalyses.

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