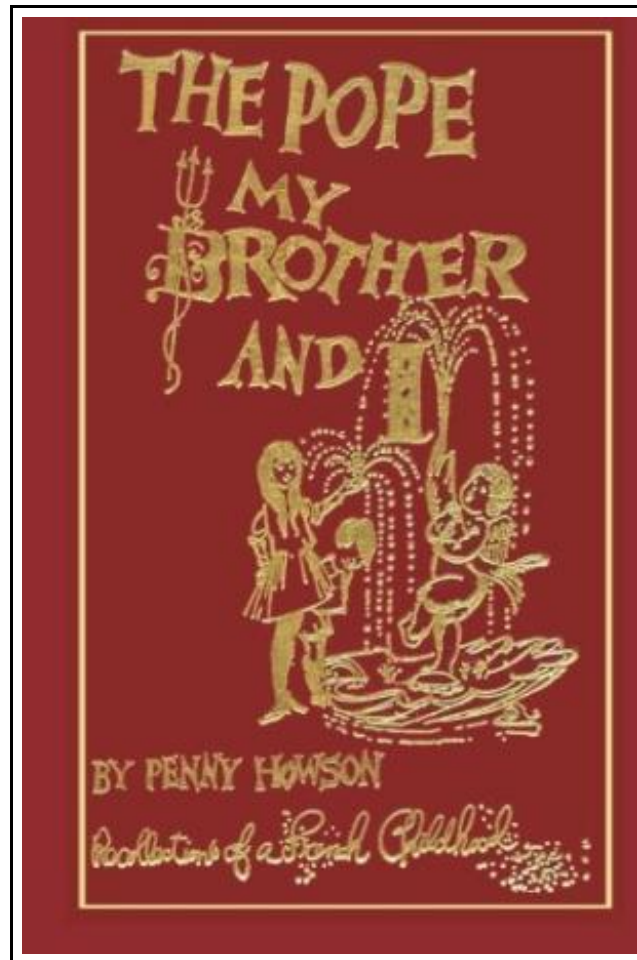


The Pope, My Brother and I - Recollections of a French Childhood



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THE POPE, MY BROTHER AND I - RECOLLECTIONS OF A FRENCH CHILDHOOD

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Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 202 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Somewhere around the age of 12, I suddenly realized my family was going straight to Hell, all five of them, and that it was up to me to do something about it. Thus speaks Regine, the narrator of Penny Howson's sprightly and charming memoir of a French childhood. Fresh from her first communion, Regine zealously tackles the problem of Godlessness in her Parisian family. But her progress on behalf of le Bon Dieu is slow. Her father is preoccupied only with the fluctuations of Anaconda copper stock and the dreadful effect of the new Metro line on his wine cellar. Her grandmother, Boma, concentrates on knitting and on the tribulations of her weekly day of dieting. Her mother's response is pleasantly vague; her sixteen-year-old sister, Tozy, is more direct: Who asked you, little fat one! This leaves only her five-year old brother, Jean-Paul. And he, more than any of the others, requires her attention - for Jean-Paul has not been baptized! With her goal now clearly in mind, Regine is relentless. In the face of her family's massive indifference, she determines to baptize Jean-Paul herself, and the rollicking pursuit of her brother's salvation that follows is a masterpiece of wry and affectionate humor. In her loving characterizations of her family, in her deft use of comedy and in her representation of a French way of life that has almost disappeared today, Penny Howson has created a gem of a book. The Pope, My Brother and I is funny, heart-warming and poignant in the finest tradition of childhood recollections.

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