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Leo Madigan

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Leo Madigan : Exquisite Miniature before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exquisite Miniature:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An Exquisite Book!By Donal FoleyThis is a very engaging book on the short life of Nellie Organ, an Irish girl who didn't make it to her fifth birthday, but left a profound spiritual imprint on those who came into contact with her. Leo Madigan has already published a shorter work on Little Nellie of Holy God, as the child was universally known, comparing her with Jacinta of Fatima, but this work focuses particularly on Nellie's short life.She was born in poverty and her mother died from tuberculosis when she was still very young, but she gave her the most precious inheritance which any child can have, that is a solid religious

foundation, one where family prayer, and particularly the rosary, were a real part of life. Her parents realized she had an extraordinary understanding of God's love for one so young, and the author brings out very well the way her mother focused on bringing up Nellie in a truly religious way, to accept suffering in union with Christ, reminiscent of the example given by the parents of Therese of Lisieux. The death of her mother led to the break up of the family as the children were placed in various religious institutions, with Nellie coming to the convent of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Cork. It was here that this young soul lived the rest of her short life, a life of pain due to tuberculosis, dental caries and a spinal defect. But she bore her sufferings with astonishing fortitude for one so young, as she increasingly united herself with Holy God in the tabernacle. One of the things Leo Madigan brings out very well is the growing hunger and desire Nellie had to receive Holy Communion. At the time this was virtually out of the question for one so young - less than five - but her love was rewarded when a Jesuit priest who came to the convent spoke to her and realized that she had reached the age of reason and understood the true nature of the Eucharist. Prior to this, the local bishop had recognized her precocious holiness and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to Nellie making her, in her own words, "a soldier of Holy God." Fr Bury, the Jesuit, finally received permission from the Bishop to give Holy Communion to Nellie, and her desire to receive the Sacrament and her thanksgiving afterwards are an object lesson to those of us who take it almost for granted. A number of witnesses testify that Nellie's face took on a supernatural aspect when she received Communion, and Pope Pius X cited the example of Nellie as one of his reasons for lowering the age at which children could receive Communion. Eventually, worn out by her sufferings, Nellie died on 2 February 1908. Leo Madigan tells the story of Little Nellie's life and death very well, with some wonderful turns of phrase and penetrating spiritual insights, while gently correcting some of the overly pious biographies of her written during the early part of the twentieth century. Overall this is a beautifully written book, a real page turner, and one which cannot fail to leave the reader with a desire to live a life more like the luminous example of self-sacrifice given to us by Little Nellie herself