

The Copts - the indigenous Christians of Egypt - declared their independence from Byzantine Christianity when they appointed their own patriarchs in the sixth century. Jill Kamil has written an engaging and accessible survey of the history of Christianity on Egypt, through its development under Rome, Byzantium and Islam, to modern times. Drawing on personal travel to all the Christian sites of Egypt, and conversations with scholars, monks, museum directors, and scores of lay Egyptians both Copt and Muslim, the author tells us about the fundamental importance of Coptic religion and culture in Egypt. Weaving together historical research with absorbing stories, she explores questions as: \* How did Christianity succeed in an Egypt that already had an established religion which had lasted for more than 300 years? \* What part did Egypt play in the evolution of the early Christian movement? \* What led the Copts to develop monasticism? \* Why were there so many Egyptian martyrs? \* What caused the Coptic Church to break away from the rest of orthodox Christianity in the sixth century AD? Lavishly illustrated with more than 120 photographs, drawings and maps, Christianity in the Land of the Pharaohs offers a captivating insight into a side of Egypt that will be new to many readers. It is ideal not only for students of Egyptian history and Christianity, as well as those with a more general interest in Egypt's past and present.

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