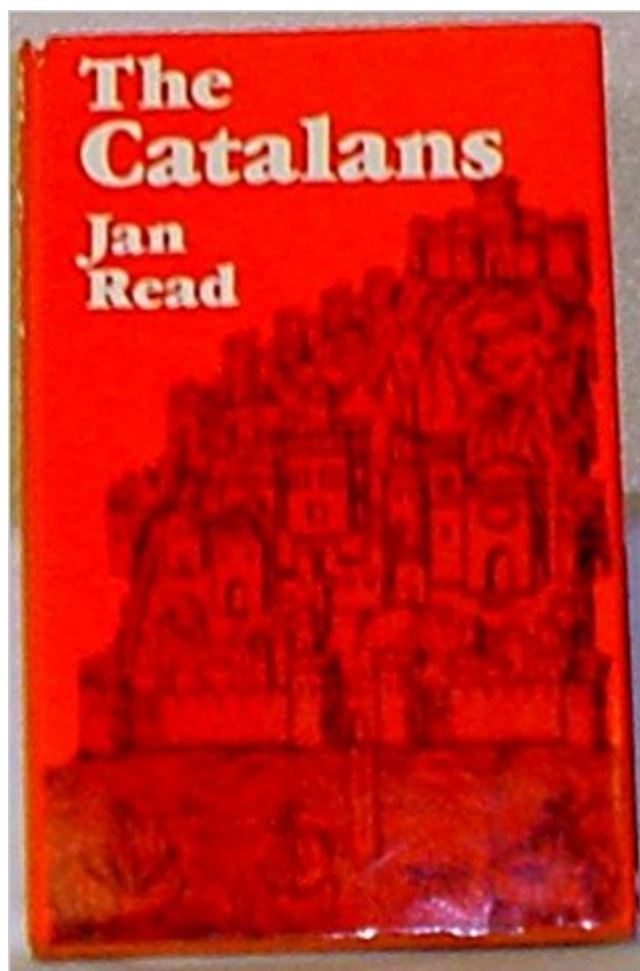


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Catalans



Synopsis

Book by Read, Jan

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book by Read, Jan

This little book is packed with the history of Catalan region from the beginning of time until 20th century. For me, the pace of the book was too quick as each chapter seems to move thru another century and most remarkable people (monarchs, artists, teachers, physicians) of that time. We learn that initial rulers were very protective of their land and have purposely engaged in arranged political marriages in order to preserve and expand the power. We also learn of famous rulers Isabel and Ferdinand are equals in terms of their power even though they came from two different houses: house of Aragon and house of Catalan. This sort of equality has entitled them to share riches from new land (Americas) equally between each other. But as time progresses, regents become weaker: physically, spiritually and mentally and thus becomes time of change when the ideas of republic start to overpower centuries old loyalties to monarchy. This is an ambitious book, but without any deep understanding of this region prior to reading the book, I was simply overwhelmed with names, titles, relationships, marriages and complex history of the region. It is a beautiful country with rich culture, language, customs and people and it will take a couple of more books before I can fully understand it. I am sure that my visit to the region this Spring will help too.

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