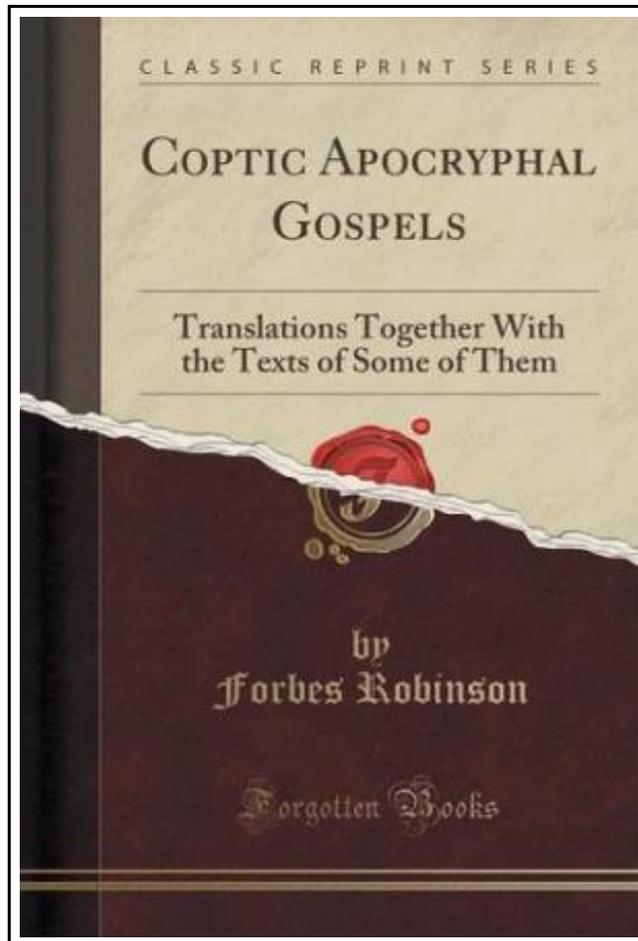


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Coptic Apocryphal Gospels: Translations Together With the Texts of Some of Them The editor of Apocryphal literature has in some measure to work in the dark. He often collects fragments in the hope that sooner or later he may discover the larger work to which they belong. As this book is going to press, my attention has been called by Dr James to a fresh volume of M. Basset's Les Apocryphes Ethiopiens (vol. V), in the appendix to which he has given a translation from an Arabic MS (Bibliothèque Nationale, suppl. 73) of the Priere de la Vierge a Bartos. This apocryphon proves to be closely connected with the third fragment of the Life of the Virgin, which I have published on pp. 20 - 25. It narrates how the Virgin delivered S. Matthias, when he was confined in prison in Bartos, i.e. among the Parthians. The Christians apprehended with him were being given one by one to the governor's mad son to eat. This, we may note, is the only allusion in the piece to the anthropophagi; as the incidental mention of them contained in our fragment (p. 23 v. 9) does not appear in the Arabic. The Virgin releases the prisoners by means of a prayer taught her by Christ, when He was on the cross. The words of the prayer are not given; but it forms the substance of an Ethiopic apocryphon, also translated by M. Basset (pp. 11 - 30), when it is again connected by a prefatory note with the release of S. Matthias. The effect of the prayer is to melt iron, and make it become...

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