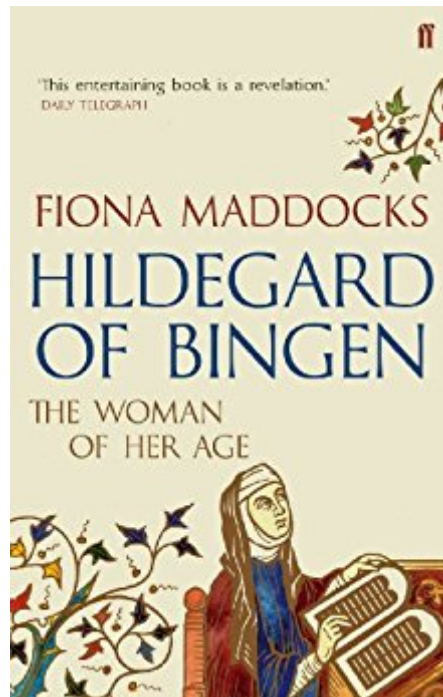


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Hildegard Of Bingen: The Woman Of Her Age



Synopsis

Best known today as a fine composer, the twelfth-century German abbess Hildegard of Bingen was also a religious leader and visionary, a poet, naturalist and writer of medical treatises. Despite her cloistered life she had strong, often controversial views on sex, love and marriage too - a woman astonishing in her own age, whose book of apocalyptic visions, *Scivias*, would alone have been enough to ensure her lasting fame. In this classic and highly praised biography - first published by Headline in 2001 - distinguished writer and journalist, Fiona Maddocks, draws on Hildegard's prolific writings to paint a portrait of her extraordinary life against the turbulent medieval background of crusade and schism, scientific discovery and cultural revolution. The great intellectual gifts and forceful character that emerge make her as fascinating as any figure in the Middle Ages. More than 800 years after her death, Pope Benedict XVI has made Hildegard a Saint and a Doctor of the Church (one of only four women). Fiona Maddocks has provided a short new preface to cover these tributes to an extraordinary and exceptional woman.

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Customer Reviews

I'm always on the look out for a good book about a great woman. I heard about Hildegard on an NPR broadcast. The part I found most intriguing is that this woman was recognized for her greatness in so many fields in her own lifetime. But then something happened, that I couldn't quite catch from the radio. As the author explains, by the 12th century, the convent of nuns of the Catholic church was a place where women's education could flourish. As the "seat" of learning changed to universities, women were closed out again, just as they had been in the earlier centuries of the Church. It could be argued that it has taken 900 years to regain a system of educating women who can reach the intellectual and spiritual heights of Hildegard of Bingen. With Mr. Trump just having been elected, will women of the 21st century be thrown back into the same dark places as women who followed Hildegard? This book reads like a novel. It was very engaging and well written. I did just skim the chapters on music and art. I just didn't have the background to follow the detail, my shortcoming, not the author's. I would highly recommend.

The subject of this Book makes it so wonderful. Hildegard is the equivalent of a NUMBER 1 person! The author has captured her unique spirit and has given the reader an unforgettable and helpful experience.

Comprehensive, well-written and engaging. A good introduction to the life and work of Hildegard.

I needed a good reference for my research. This book helped a great deal. I was really amazed at what all I discovered about this very interesting woman.

This book was well researched and written in a style that made Hildegard's era come alive. The life of this remarkable woman is fascinating indeed, reflecting as it does the social norms and values and beliefs of her time. And yet, as the author so successfully reveals, Hildegard rose above the strictures and conventions that could well have stifled and subdued, to become an educated, accomplished, visionary in music, theology, medicine, art, business science and more. A gifted lady. I certainly recommend this book.

Loved it

This is the best of a half dozen texts on Hildegard that I've read recently. It's comprehensive, readable, and seems to capture her spirit well.

excellent

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