

# Medieval Mystics: Pioneering Poets, Fierce Feminists, and First Ladies of Their Time



**The Book of Awesome Women Writers: Medieval Mystics, Pioneering Poets, Fierce Feminists and First Ladies of Literature** by Becca Anderson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5



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Medieval mystics were not just pious women who retreated from the world. They were pioneering poets, fierce feminists, and influential figures in their own right. Despite living in a time when women were often marginalized and silenced, these women found ways to express their voices and make a difference in the world.

Here are some of the most remarkable medieval mystics who challenged social norms and left a lasting impact on the world:

### **Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)**

Hildegard of Bingen was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and polymath. She is one of the most well-known and influential women in the Middle Ages. Hildegard was a prolific writer and composer, and her works cover a wide range of topics, including medicine, science, theology, and music.

Hildegard was also a fierce feminist and social critic. She spoke out against the oppression of women and argued for their right to education and

equality. In her writings, she challenged the traditional roles that society assigned to women and called for a more just and equitable world.

### **Julian of Norwich (1342-1416)**

Julian of Norwich was an English anchoress and mystic. She is best known for her book *Revelations of Divine Love*, which is a collection of visions and insights that she experienced during a series of illnesses. Julian's writings are full of hope and optimism, and they offer a unique perspective on the nature of God and the human soul.

Julian was also a feminist and a supporter of women's rights. She argued that women are equal to men in the eyes of God and that they should be treated with respect and dignity. Julian's writings were influential in the development of feminist thought in the Middle Ages.

### **Margery Kempe (1373-1438)**

Margery Kempe was an English mystic and pilgrim. She is best known for her autobiography, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, which is a vivid and detailed account of her life and religious experiences. Margery was a controversial figure in her own time, and she was often accused of heresy and madness.

Despite the challenges she faced, Margery was a strong and independent woman. She refused to conform to the expectations of society and she lived her life on her own terms. Margery's *Book* is a fascinating glimpse into the life of a medieval woman who dared to be different.

### **Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)**

Catherine of Siena was an Italian Dominican mystic and theologian. She is one of the most popular saints in the Catholic Church, and she is known for her work as a peacemaker and social reformer. Catherine was a close advisor to Pope Gregory XI, and she played a key role in persuading him to return to Rome from Avignon.

Catherine was also a feminist and a supporter of women's rights. She argued that women are capable of great things and that they should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Catherine's writings and work helped to improve the status of women in the Middle Ages.

### **Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373)**

Bridget of Sweden was a Swedish mystic and founder of the Bridgettine Order. She is one of the patron saints of Sweden, and she is known for her work as a peacemaker and social reformer. Bridget was a close advisor to Pope Urban VI, and she played a key role in persuading him to end the Great Schism.

Bridget was also a feminist and a supporter of women's rights. She argued that women are equal to men in the eyes of God and that they should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Bridget's writings and work helped to improve the status of women in the Middle Ages.

### **Mechthild of Magdeburg (1207-1282)**

Mechthild of Magdeburg was a German Benedictine nun and mystic. She is best known for her book *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*, which is a collection of visions and insights that she experienced. Mechthild's writings are full of passion and intensity, and they offer a unique perspective on the nature of God and the human soul.

Mechthild was also a feminist and a supporter of women's rights. She argued that women are capable of great things and that they should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Mechthild's writings helped to inspire other women to pursue their own spiritual journeys.

The medieval mystics were remarkable women who challenged social norms and left a lasting impact on the world. They were poets, feminists, social reformers, and theologians. Their writings and work helped to improve the status of women, promote peace, and inspire others to seek a deeper connection with God.

The medieval mystics are an inspiration to us all. They show us that anything is possible if we have the courage to follow our dreams and live our lives on our own terms.

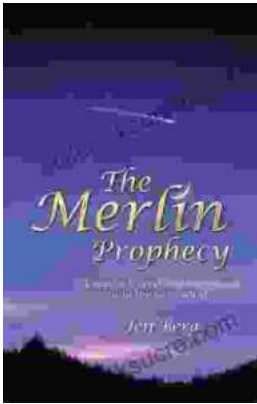


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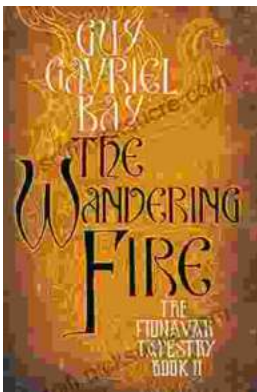
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