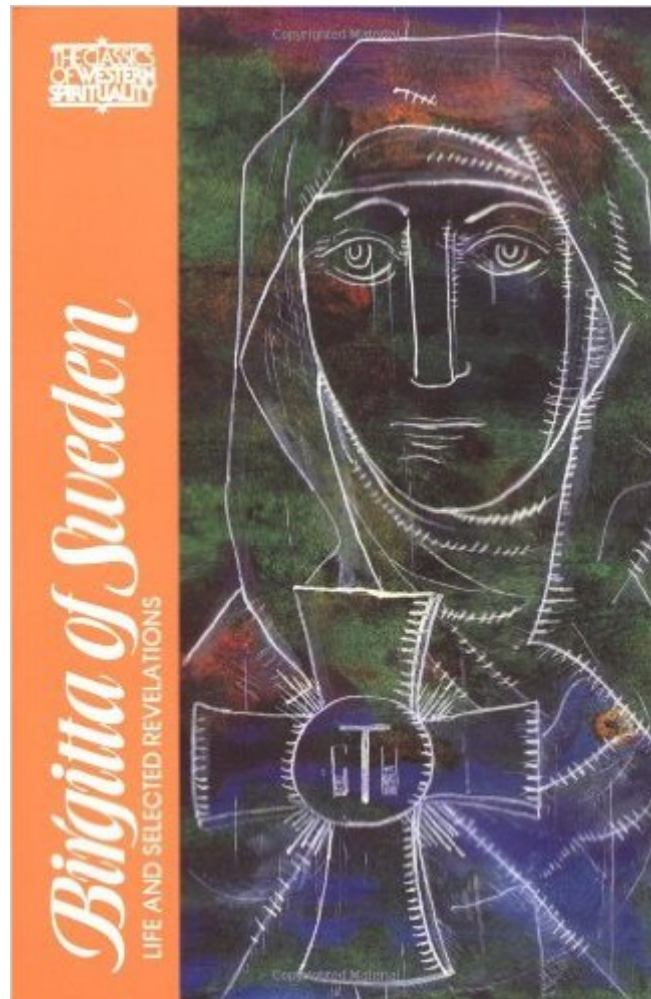


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Birgitta Of Sweden: Life And Selected Writings (Classics Of Western Spirituality)



Synopsis

The most in-depth and scholarly panorama of Western spirituality ever attempted! In one series, the original writings of the universally acknowledged teachers of the Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish, Islamic and Native American traditions have been critically selected, translated and introduced by internationally recognized scholars and spiritual leaders. The texts are first-rate, and the introductions are informative and reliable. The books will be a welcome addition to the bookshelf of every literate religious person. -- The Christian Century

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Birgitta of Sweden, also sometimes referred to as St. Brigid of Sweden, was a Christian mystic who lived during 1303-1373. I was interested in learning more about her, because my Grandmother found Brigitta's 15 Prayers of St. Brigid, which meditate on the Passion (and which can be found in the Pieta Prayer book, published by MLOR Corporation) particularly edifying. Birgitta is also known for her endeavors to reform the Church during the time when the Pope often preferred the fun of Paris to the duty of Rome. She is an unusual type for a medieval mystic, because unlike many mystics, she lived a large part of her life in the world and raised a family. After the death of her husband, she supposedly received visions from Jesus and his mother, and later founded a religious order. She was related to the Swedish royal family and offered advice to many members of nobility and the Church hierarchy. I was disappointed that the book did not discuss the background of her life more. There is a lengthy introduction, but most of it seemed to be concerned with semantics. I found

it ironic that the dryest part of the book, was the most modern information provided. Apparently her writings, which were conducted to explain her visions, were compiled into seven or eight books (there were two approaches in their compilation). The translation by Marguerite Harris only includes Book 5 and Book 7. I did not realize that this book presented an incomplete collection until I received it. However, I have not seen a complete collection of her work elsewhere in English. The two books vary greatly in their style and approach. Book 5 is written in a dialogue format. As Brigitta travels on horseback, she begins to pray and in her prayer she sees a vision.

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