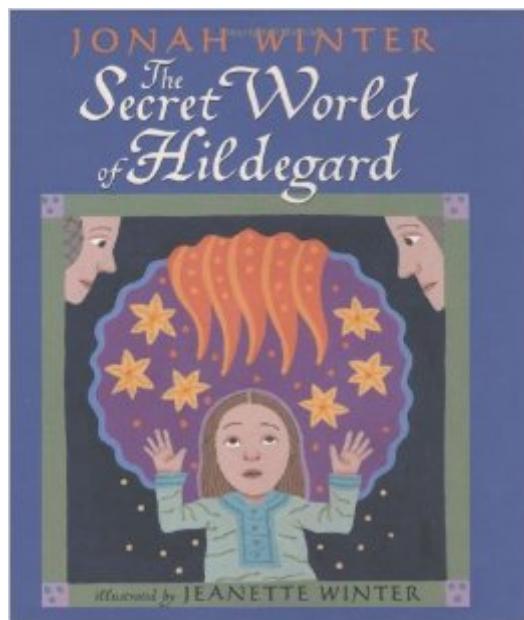


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# The Secret World Of Hildegard



## Synopsis

From the star-studded author of DIZZY (and the mother-son team that brought you DIEGO) comes a picture book on the extraordinary Hildegard von Bingen, a woman who had the courage to take on kings. Hildegard von Bingen composed hymns and symphonies, painted glorious pictures, compiled books on medicine, and wrote religious revelations of such ethereal beauty that they inspired the respect of Popes and kings--all in the Dark Ages when most people were illiterate and women were disdained. Now Jonah Winter teams up once again with his mother, the award-winning illustrator Jeanette Winter, to bring you Hildegard's remarkable story. The result is a lyrical biography that captures Hildegard's faith and beauty--and celebrates the courage it took for a singular woman to let her light shine.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books; Library Binding edition (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439507391

ISBN-13: 978-0439507394

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 7.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #673,255 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #155 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval #219 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious #432 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

It was during the Middle Ages when everything seemed so dark gray and dreary. Little girls were not allowed to attend school and never learned to read. Little Hildegard was a very strange and unusual girl. When she was only three years old she began to predict things. This frightened her parents very much. She often claimed her head hurt and she said she saw "flames and stars." It wasn't long after this she was sent away to a monastery. It had beautiful gardens, but her stone room was barren and unwelcoming, yet there was someone there who would help her. Jutta, a nun, taught her

to read and do many things. Much later on when Hildegard grew up, she was elected "Mistress," as she was so beloved in the monastery. Eventually she dictated her visions, which she claimed came from God. She wrote music, wrote about medicine, entire languages and more. Eventually she presented a book to the Pope. She was modest and said simply, "I am just a feather on the breath of God." This is a marvelous story, told with poetic simplicity. Hildegard von Bingen was what people called today a "mystic visionary," or prophet. The art work is beautiful . . . acrylic and pen on Arches watercolor paper. There are a brief biography and bibliography in the back of the book. Hildegard was a multi talented woman that many young people would want to acquaint themselves within the pages of this book!

In this beautifully written and illustrated simple text, readers are drawn into the mysticism of Hildegard that has much to offer contemporary spirituality. While it is ideal for sharing with young children, adults as well can find room for contemplation in this lovely sharing of a gifted woman's faith experience.

Published in 2007 (copyright page is at the end of the book), this gem contains the well written, essential, true story of the extraordinary woman mystic, Hildegard Von Bingen--in fewer than 50 pages. The cover and illustrations are highly designed with good use of color, and though modern, are evocative of Medieval manuscripts. This isn't just a book for a child to read, but one to admire and keep for rereading throughout adulthood. A quote from Hildegard, the condensed adult version of the story, and a bibliography follow the children's tale. A beautiful worthwhile book. I know an old woman who wants one for Christmas.

Both pictures and words are delightful and work well together. This is one of the best children's books about Christian saints that I have ever seen. As a hagiologist (a person who studies saints) I have seen a number, and most are both poor and male dominated. This is neither. Furthermore, with 35 saints in the Roman Catholic category of Doctors of the Church [as in Teachers, like getting a doctorate], and only 4 of those being women, it is very nice to see this book about one of them. This is good for pre-readers and early readers.

Given as a confirmation gift, "Secret World" passed a fairly high bar. I particularly appreciated how the text moved from a simplistic, childlike description of Hildegard's early life to the complex and beautifully satisfying account of her mature work. The woodcuts were marvelous.

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