

The twelfth-century German abbess Hildegard of Bingen would have been remarkable in any age. Today, her growing reputation as a composer of religious music has overshadowed the astonishing variety of her accomplishments and her part in the scientific, cultural, and theological revolution of the pre-Renaissance, from religion and mysticism to medicine and sex. Scivias, her book of apocalyptic visions, with its extraordinary and compelling illustrations, would alone have been enough to endure her lasting fame. The story of Hildegards life, from her entry into a monastery at Disibodenberg on the Rhine as a child, through the exploration of her pent-up genius in middle years, to her eventual admission to the German canon of saints, is here told against a rich background of the years of the Crusades, the flowering of monasticism, papal schism and heresy. The forceful character that emerges challenges any image of demurely subjugated womanhood associated with the period. Hildegards story is as fascinating as that of any figure in the Middle Ages, and she and her musical legacy continue to be the subject of debate a thousand years later. From the Hardcover edition.

Editorial Reviews. About the Author. Fiona Maddocks is chief music critic of the Observer. Hildegard of Bingen: The Woman of Her Age by [Maddocks, Fiona]. Lettie Ransley welcomes the reissue of Fiona Maddocks's hugely enjoyable life of Hildegard of Bingen. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN: The Woman of Her Age. Fiona Maddocks, Author. Doubleday \$ (p) ISBN The twelfth-century German abbess Hildegard of Bingen would have been remarkable in any age. Today, her growing reputation as a. Hildegard of Bingen is a vivid portrait of Hildegard's life from her entry into a male monastery at the age of eight to her establishment of a thriving convent (where.

Despite her cloistered life she had strong, often controversial views on sex, love and marriage too - a woman astonishing in her own age.

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