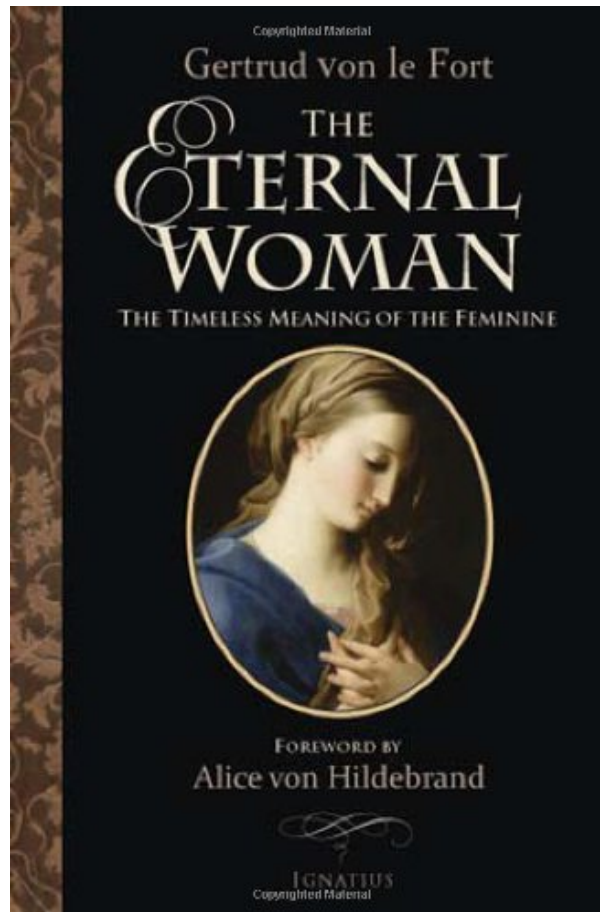
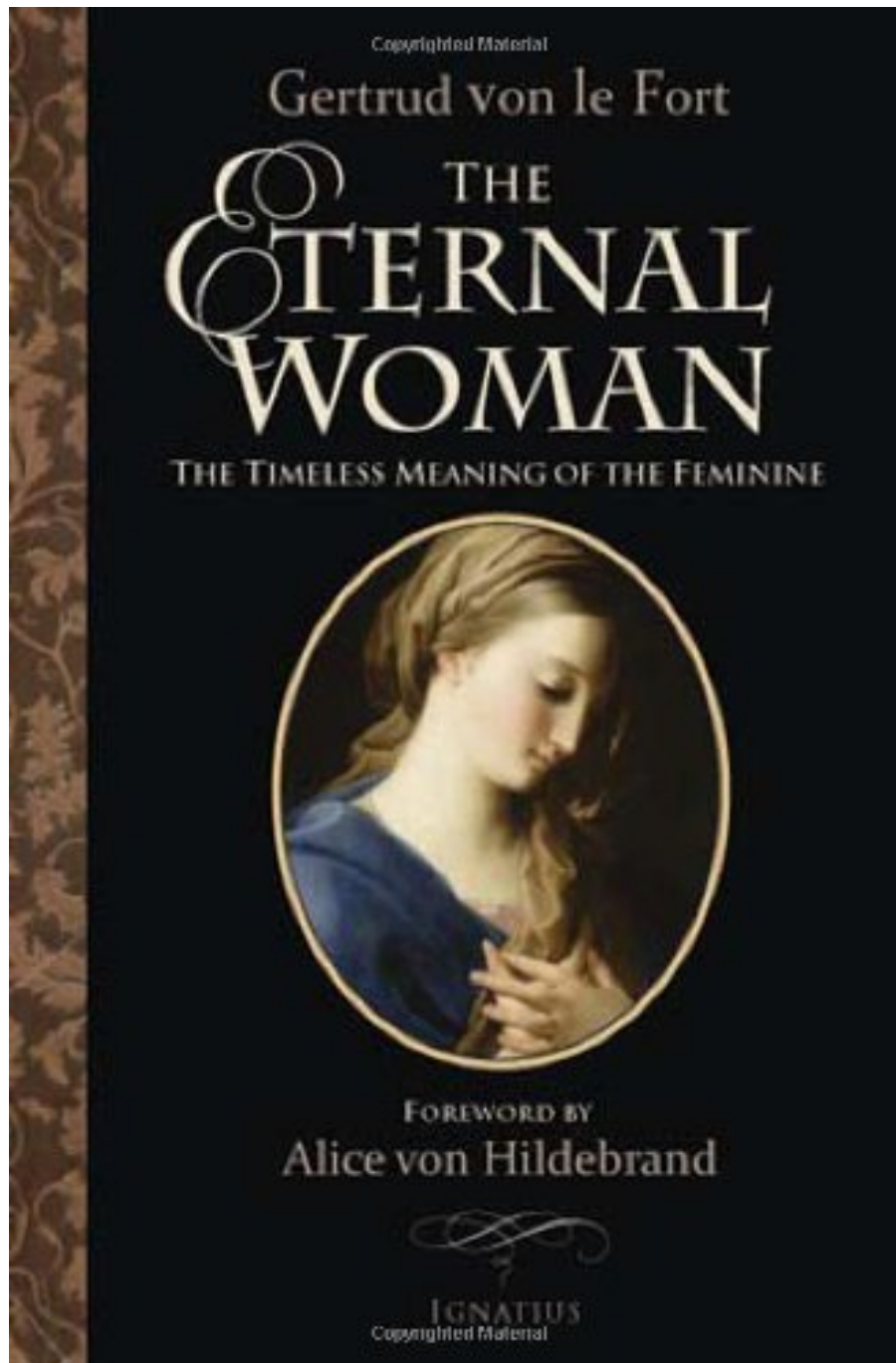


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When *The Eternal Woman* was first published in Germany, Europe was a battlefield of modern ideologies that would sweep away millions of lives in war and genocide. Denying the Creator, who made male and female, Nazism and Communism could only fail to appreciate the true meaning of the feminine and reduce woman to a mere instrument of the state. In the name of liberating her from the so-called tyranny of Christianity, atheism, in any form, leads to woman's enslavement.

With penetrating insight Gertrud von le Fort understood the war on womanhood, and consequently on motherhood, that always coincides with an attack on the faith of the Catholic Church, which she embraced at the age of 50 in 1926. In *The Eternal Woman*, she counters the modern assault on the feminine not with polemical argument but with perhaps the most beautiful meditation on womanhood ever written.

Taking Mary, Virgin and Mother, as her model, von le Fort reflects on the significance of woman's spiritual and physical receptivity that constitutes her very essence, as well as her role in both the creation and redemption of human beings. Mary's fiat to God is the pathway to our salvation, as it is inextricably linked with the obedience unto death of Jesus her son. Like the Son's acceptance of the Cross, Mary's acceptance of her maternity symbolizes for all mankind the self-surrender to the Creator required of every human soul. Since any woman's acceptance of motherhood is likewise eyes to God, when womanhood and motherhood are properly understood and appreciated, the nature of the soul's relationship to God is revealed.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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Feminine Philosophy Treasure

By Mary Anne H.

I had never heard of Gertrud von le Fort, though the advertised "Forward by Alice von Hildebrand" caught my eye while I was looking the book up on recommendation. It took a number of pages in the first chapter for me to get into it, but by page 15 I knew this was a real treasure trove of philosophical wisdom.

"Woman...according to St. John, is recognizable as an apocalyptic figure. Only a woman who has become unfaithful to her destiny can portray that absolute unfruitfulness of the world which must inevitably cause its death and destruction.

If the sign of the woman is "Be it done unto me, which means the readiness to conceive or, when expressed religiously, the will to be blessed, then there is always misery when the woman no longer wills to conceive,

no longer desires to be blessed."

Baronness von le Fort covers succinctly and effectively: virginal womanhood, motherhood, spiritual motherhood and woman as bride and mother with classic literary examples, secular examples and of course religious examples.

It is a philosophical book so there is a lot to think about, but it's not too "in the clouds" to be unreachable to the average lay person with some interest in this topic.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

NOT the Eternal Victim

By BarnEyes

What a relief to read something on the subject not steeped in killing political correctness. My mother was not a feminist. She always said she did not feel the least bit oppressed or subjected, even when, as a widow with 6 small children, she was forced to work as a waitress to eke things out. This book is about THAT woman - the woman who knows who she is and knows who God is, who responds trustfully to the challenges of life, and is fulfilled and happy.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Text book

By Amazon Customer

This can be a challenging read as it was written in 1954 and the concepts of men and women are out of step with today. However, the point of Mary's role in our faith journey and the true role and importance of women in God's plan is eye opening.

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