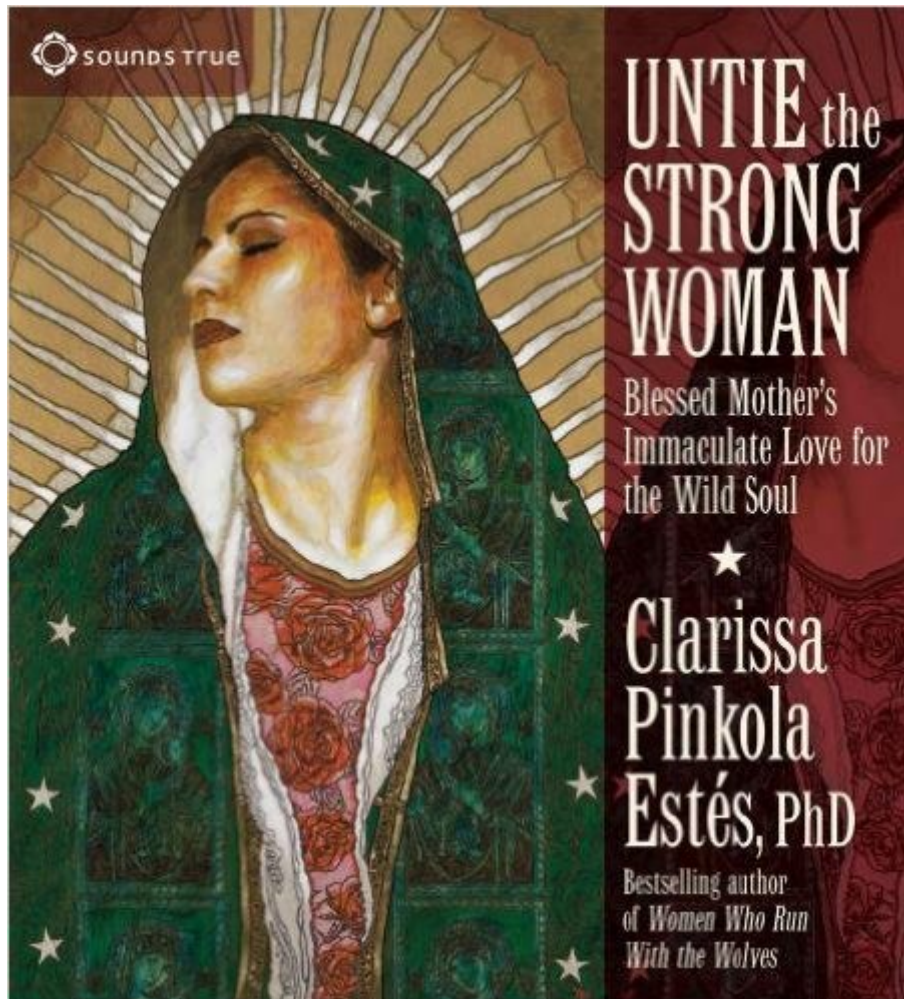


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Untie The Strong Woman: Blessed Mother's Immaculate Love For The Wild Soul



Synopsis

Call her Our Lady, La Nuestra Señora, Holy Mother or one of her thousands of other names," says Dr. Est s. "She wears hundreds of costumes, dozens of skin tones, is patroness of deserts, mountains, stars and oceans. Thus she comes to us in billions of images, but at her center, she is the Great Immaculate Heart." With *Untie the Strong Woman*, Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Est's invites us to reconnect with "the fierce and loving Blessed Mother who is friendly, but never tame she who flies to our aid when the road is long and our hearts are broken, ever ready to rekindle the inner fire of our creative souls." In her first book in more than a decade, Dr. Est's illuminates Our Lady through blessings, images, and narrative, including: *Stories of connecting with the Blessed Mother*, including "Meeting the Lady in Red," and "Untie the Strong Woman" Blessed Mother's many images from around the world, including "Litany of The Mother Road: A Chant of Her Incandescent Names;" "A Man Named

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Customer Reviews

This wonderful book defies any simple review. Its difficult to confine to any summary or set of words other than the author's own. It is broad, deep, elegantly simple at times and then profoundly complex all on the same page. A totally different experience, ever richer, unpacks on each encounter I've had so far. Its heart-breaking, heart-mending and heart-opening. So...Instead it makes more sense to me to speak about what happens when one meets the book, encounters the author's voice, and through her enters the presence of the Strong Woman she so passionately introduces now to the rest of the world. Regardless of our faith or lack thereof, our gender, our

culture, or our political creed. I started to preorder this weeks ago out of curiosity, but largely skeptical. Discussion of the mother archetype and such religious themes carries echos of familiarity from either my upbringing or academic past. Some have been decidedly not pleasant. And for the most part I would say I'm not very comfortable "believing" in them -- particularly if I sense persuasive efforts to press me into cooperation with a view held by one particular organized or institutionalized version. My preferred entrance into the spiritual, sacred, or holy is more easily recognized in the nonverbal world of nature. Nonetheless, I have greatly enjoyed and benefited from several other works from Dr. Estes. These convinced me that her newest book, *Untie the Strong Woman*, might be quite different than my expectations. Indeed, it is not like any other book I have ever encountered. In brief, because there is so much for each person to individually discover on their own, and not wishing to spoil any secrets I will just say that I was awe-struck by the following:¹.

Untie the Strong Woman may be the most unusual book I've read in the last ten years. Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estés, or perhaps we should say, Mother Clarissa, has offered those with ears and eyes to perceive meditations on the Holy Mother in her vast panorama of faces and names; a bridge of reflective wisdom between literati and rustic alike; and (for some who yearn for a bit of mothering themselves) a glimpse into at least one wild soul's devotion and discipline set toward new life and hope in a world in desperate need of both. It is not an easy book to read, mind you, but that has less to do with the book (I suspect) and more to do with what the author might call "the overculture" in which we swim, the shaped expectations for immediate access or sound-bites imprinted into readers today. *Untie the Strong Woman* is an important text to receive, in the end. It is one that will take me years to read well, which I do commit to completing/receiving. I'll share here only a couple 'two-cents' worth of what I mean, or why. *Untie the Strong Woman* is classic Estés: story-formed teachings, poetry, blessings, all interwoven with decades of Jungian-flavored insights into the human condition in its beauty and difficulty. Devotees of her and her work will find nourishment they've hoped for, perhaps even come to expect, with a clear sense of the sound of her voice in their ears. I wonder if some will be surprised, however. The text shows a strongly steeped Catholic voice, though not in any staid-traditional sense.

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