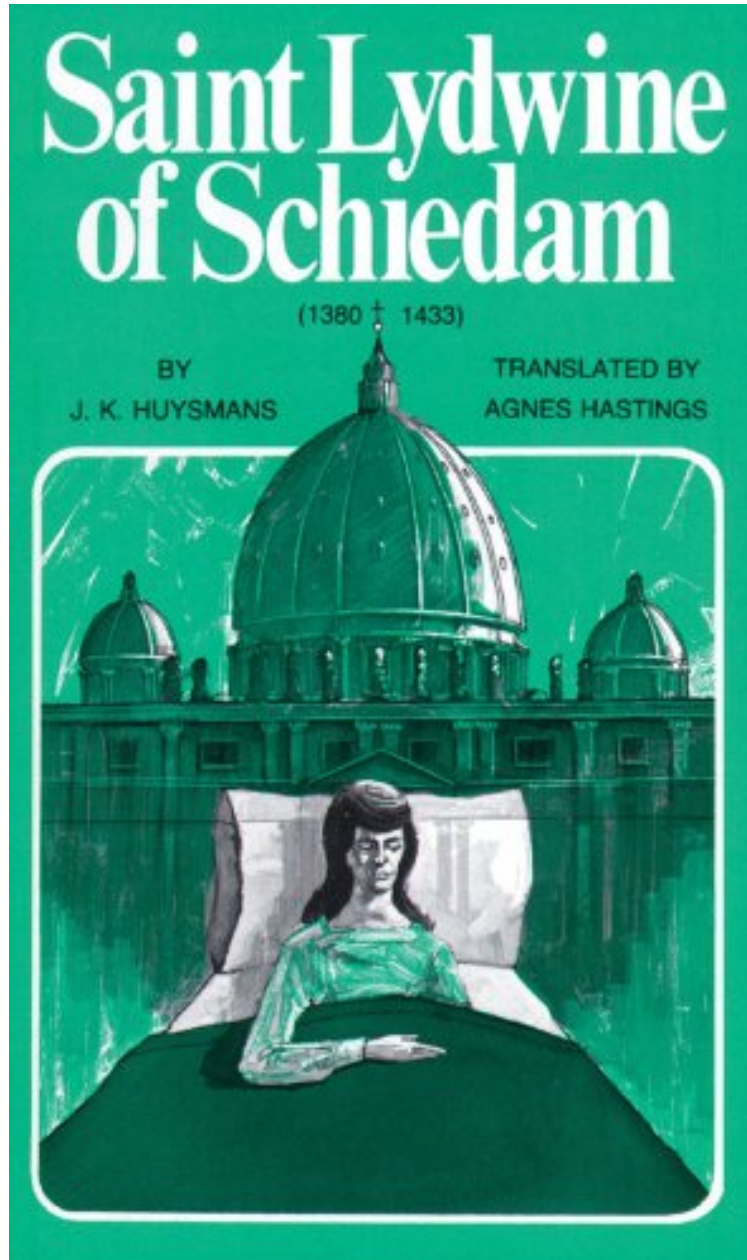


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St Lydwine of Schiedam

J. K. Huysmans

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J. K. Huysmans : St Lydwine of Schiedam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised St Lydwine of Schiedam:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I have never heard of this beautiful saint before. By Julie This biography is unbelievable! I have never heard of this beautiful saint before. This book tells her story of suffering and sacrifice and how meritorious it can be. It lists many other souls who also loved the Lord with all their heart. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. MS Patient Zero By Laura This is a translation from three biographies written originally in Dutch - one by the saint's cousin, one by her confessor/mentor, and one by an official of the Church. In fact, all three biographers had ties to the Church and are considered to be quite reputable. Saint Lydwine lived from 1380-1433 and spent most of that time paralyzed in bed. According to Wikipedia and other sources, she was later diagnosed with the first recorded case of multiple sclerosis - although this is not covered in the book, which was published in 1923. Not only did Lydwine suffer from MS, but she also survived The Black Plague. Her tortures were extreme; how anyone could survive it is indeed miraculous. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. This is one amazing story. And yet it's true. By Jeri Lydwine was born in 1380, a time when Christendom was in chaos. Two men both claimed to be pope. The black death raged. In the east, the Mongol Tamarlane built a pyramid of 90,000 skulls and the Mongol hordes appeared poised to attack Europe. Old heresies were revived; new one bloomed. Lydwine herself was a nobody, born into a family which had fallen on hard times. Her life as a young girl seemed very ordinary, except for once, when she mentioned to her mother that the statue of the Virgin had smiled at her. Did she, like Padre Pio, experience mystical visions even as a child? At any rate, her life changed dramatically when she broke a rib ice skating at age fifteen. She was carried to her bed, and in that bed, and in great pain, she stayed for the rest of her life. Why? Her illness is mysterious by modern standards. It's possible that the physicians brought to treat her may have done more harm than good. Or it may be that there was much more to the illness than has been described, or that God allowed her to suffer for others--certainly that was the case with her stigmata. At any rate, Lydwine was now to suffer agony such as few have ever lived through. Lydwine flung herself upon God, praying ceaselessly even though God gave her no comfort at first, and she lived in nothingness except for the unending pain. Then came the moments, and even days, when she was in a state of ecstasy. She was always either in one extreme or the other. She bilocated, had visions, could read souls, smelled of heavenly perfume, and ate nothing but the Eucharist. After her death, her frail body which had been so tortured and so ugly, suddenly became as fresh and pretty as before the day when, at fifteen, she broke that rib. Her life is amazing and deserves to be better known.

St. Lydwine was bedridden from the age of fifteen, when she broke a rib while ice skating, and endured a lifelong illness that was probably one of the first documented cases of multiple sclerosis. Her body became covered with sores and abscesses and virtually came apart into three pieces symbolically representing the condition of the Church. She ate no food except Holy Communion and experienced many mystical phenomena. An incredible story of one of the most heroic victim souls in the history of the Church. Imprimatur. 252 pgs, PB

About the Author Charles-Marie-Georges Huysmans, whose pseudonym was J. K. Huysmans, was born in 1848 at Paris, France. After suffering as a youth in the French Ministry, he subsequently began writing works of prose poetry, the first of which was published in 1874. He went on to author full-length novels that illustrated his remarkable wit and satirical writing style. *Against Nature* is his most well-known work. His other writing includes *En Rade*, *Saint Lydwine of Schiedam*, and *L Oblat*. J. K. Huysmans died in 1907 in Paris.