

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN announces the publication of a groundbreaking work on
the Virgin Mary in the modern world:

MISSING MARY

The Queen of Heaven and Her Re-Emergence in the Modern Church

CHARLENE SPRETNAK

What ever happened to the Virgin Mary in the modern Catholic Church? For the past forty years her presence has been radically minimized. In a groundbreaking work, Charlene Spretnak cuts across the battle lines delineated by the left and the right within the Church to champion the recovery of the full spiritual presence of Mary. Spretnak, a liberal Catholic, sheds new light on the dethroning of the Queen of Heaven at Vatican II, and she traces the rise of a grassroots resurgence of Marian spirituality in recent years. She offers fresh reflections on the meaning of Mary, situating the Marian renewal in the larger context of contemporary efforts to correct the barrenness and sterility of modernity. Spretnak also notes that much of the cosmological symbolism traditionally associated with Mary as the Queen of Heaven and the maternal matrix is simpatico with recent discoveries in scientific cosmology about the profoundly relational nature of the Creation. Moreover, Spretnak asserts that a deep loss ensues for women in particular when Mary's female *embodiment* of grace and mystical presence is denied and replaced with a strictly text-bound version of her as a Nazarene housewife. Complete with a striking insert of contemporary Marian art, *Missing Mary* is a deeply insightful reflection on Mary in the modern age.

"For anyone who has ever loved Our Lady, or desires to, Charlene Spretnak offers a clear vision of the Blessed Mother's true and enormous shape—one that some, over time, have tried to reduce to dust. But the Mother of the Immaculate Heart is a wild one. She refuses to be made small. As in the oldest 'call and response' songs, Spretnak has called on the Blessed Mother's magnitude. And the Holy One has responded with her immaculate love; this is evident on every page. This book and its author are to be treasured as truly enacting the deepest spirit of ¡Viva la Virgin!"—Clarissa Pinkola Estés, Ph.D., author of *Women Who Run with the Wolves* and *The Faithful Gardener*

"*Missing Mary* is a classic! Charlene Spretnak offers authentic insight into the mystery that is Mary. The book is elegant, playful, and real. It's history and theology. It's mythic, scientific, and above all, it's cosmological. Her critique of the Marian decisions at Vatican II is wonderful, and her vision is urgently needed now. She has set a great course into the future."—Fr. Thomas Berry, author of *The Great Work*

"If you have prayed for a closer walk with Mary, then this book is an answer to your prayer. Charlene Spretnak serves not just Mary, but all of us, in returning her to her proper place in the cosmos and in our hearts."
—Marianne Williamson, author of *Everyday Grace*

"The impact on a reader of this daring and beautiful book is profound."—Brian Swimme, Ph.D., author of *The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos*

Charlene Spretnak is author of several books on spirituality, social issues, and ecological thought, including *Lost Goddesses of Early Greece*, *States of Grace*, *The Resurgence of the Real*, and *The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics*. She also edited an anthology, *The Politics of Women's Spirituality*.

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