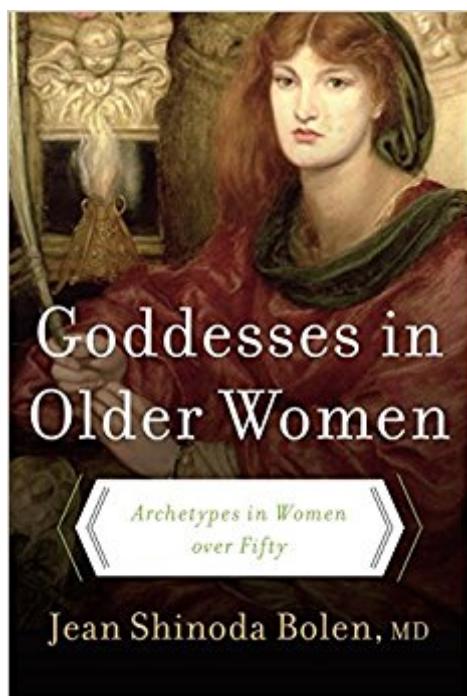


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# Goddesses In Older Women: Archetypes In Women Over Fifty



## **Synopsis**

From the bestselling author of Goddesses in Everywoman comes a celebration of life past fifty. At some point after fifty, every woman crosses a threshold into the third phase of her life. As she enters this uncharted territory she can choose to mourn what has gone before, or she can embrace the juicy-crone years. In this celebration of Act Three, Jean Shinoda Bolen, Jungian analyst and bestselling author of Goddesses in Everywoman, names the powerful new energies and goddess archetypes of compassion, outrage, healing laughter, and new layers of wisdom that come into the psyche at this momentous time. Bolen thus suggests that women have profound and exciting reasons for welcoming the other side of fifty.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Harper Paperbacks; Reprint edition (July 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060929235

ISBN-13: 978-0060929237

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #160,995 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Goddesses #612 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > New Thought #970 in Books > Self-Help > Spiritual

## **Customer Reviews**

Recycling a format she successfully employed in Goddesses in Everywoman (1984), Bolen, the author of seven works of Jungian psychology, addresses an older audience, urging women over 50 to search out positive archetypes or patterns of behavior that lie dormant in their inner selves that will help them realize their full potential. A Jungian analyst and professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, Bolen relies heavily on her earlier work, in which Greek goddesses personified aspects of the feminine psyche. For "crones" (women in the postmenopausal stage of their lives), Bolen posits four principal goddesses--Metis, Sophia, Hecate and Hestia--each of whom embodies practical intellectual, mystical, spiritual, intuitive or meditative aspects of wisdom. She recounts the goddesses' mythic origins and shows how their attributes can help women forge a more meaningful life. Bolen also highlights the empowering attributes of outrage, mirth and kindness

incarnated in certain Asian myths. In the second part of this work, Bolen revisits seven goddesses described in her original work, this time relating them to older women. Finally, Bolen urges older women to congregate in groups patterned on the consciousness-raising circles of the 1960s, to become a force for change spiritually and politically. Readers skeptical of Jungian philosophy may find the concepts here too abstract and convoluted to serve as a practical guide to aging. But for those who celebrate their maturity, Bolen's thoughtful mytho-psychology will be an inspiration. (Mar.) Forecast: Though this invitation to embrace their inner "crone" probably won't appeal to the wide female readership that made *Goddesses in Everywoman* a San Francisco Chronicle bestseller and backlist staple, Bolen is closely connected to her core readers. With 32 workshops, bookstore appearances and lectures planned in 25 cities, she can look forward to solid sales. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bolen is one of the most popular writers on goddesses, and with millions of baby boomers embarking upon their sixth decade, her new book should encounter a welcoming audience. Having shared her own midlife journey in *Crossing to Avalon* (1994), Bolen here looks to mythology for empowering archetypes for the older woman. For the first time in her work, she stretches her purview beyond the Greek pantheon to include goddesses from Egypt and Asia, and still she focuses primarily on the goddesses she has explored in such earlier works as *Goddesses in Everywoman* (1984). Bolen sees the aging woman as not only a font of wisdom but also a vibrant creative force, whose energies are free to move beyond the personal into the interpersonal and the transpersonal. Whether laughing like the mirthful Uzume or meditating with Hestia at the hearth, this "juicy crone" models power and passion in these pages. Patricia Monaghan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This a great gift for a diva turning 50. I took it with a group of ladies 50- 61 on a 50th birthday celebration trip to Mexico We all enjoyed reading it. I have had their other book, *Goddesses in Every Woman* for years and love that as well. Both are well researched and help women understand their motivations and passions. Good food for thought on the female myth.

This is the stuff I write about also, and Jean Shinoda Bolen's earlier book *Goddesses in Everywoman* was my first exposure to the subject that captured my interest and has inspired my

work and writing for nearly 50 years! Now, as an "Older Women" I find her writing to be encouraging for me still.

Jean Shinoda Bolen's wonderful book ranges from the women's movement through stages in a woman's life using myth and archetypes in a clear and readable way. I loved the tone of this. Her generous heart shines through in her writing. As a fellow Jungian I thank her.

Well written, thought-provoking exploration of Jungian archetypes in women. Even those under 50 can find lots of wisdom here. Acknowledges the multi-dimensional aspects of our personalities, and the way certain dominant characteristics change with time and maturity. Truly worthwhile!

Read Goddesses in Every Woman when I was in my 30's and it was a wonderful guide for the younger years of my life. At 65, it's nice to know there are guides available to us women growing into the later years of our lives. Reads quickly and has much to offer.

I have given this book to many friends and patients. A great read for all women questioning their path.

Jean Shinoda Bolen has done it again. I thoroughly enjoyed her "Goddesses in Everywoman" book back in the early 1990s, and now that I'm an older Goddess, this book resonates with me.

I never finished reading this book because I didn't enjoy it. I found it boring.

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