



The **Song** at the **Scaffold** is a novelette set in the time of the French Revolution, an epoch that vividly demonstrated man's capacity for both heroism and brutality. Amid the chaos and horror of the French Revolution, Blanche de la Force, daughter of smug unbeliever, enters a Carmelite convent. Blanche is so timorous that she seems unsuited to the rigors of religious life even at the best of times--and horribly misplaced as the Reign of Terror begins to stain France with the blood of a generation of Christian martyrs.

Sister Marie, one of the leading nuns in the convent, receives with joy the death threats of a ham-handed revolutionary: the sisters are going to be awarded the crown of Christian martyrdom! Sister Marie prepares the other nuns for this fearsome sacrifice, all the while harboring doubts about Blanche's ability and willingness to join them in giving up their lives for Christ.

Blanche's life thereafter and the story of the nuns take more than one unexpected twist, leaving you not only with the inspiring, true example of their martyrdom, but also with a penetrating insight into the nature of holiness.

Gertrud Von Le Fort wrote **The Song** at the **Scaffold** in 1931, five years after converting to the Catholic Faith. At that time, she was considered Germany's most influential Catholic poet and novelist.