

The English 'Loathly Lady' Tales

Boundaries, Traditions, Motifs

edited by Susan Carter and S. Elizabeth Passmore

DESCRIPTION:

Whereas some literary motifs such as the tyrant, the beggar, and the crone have equivalents in the real world, the Loathly Lady is a creature of the imagination. Yet she is not merely a whimsical fantasy. This volume concentrates on the medieval English Loathly Lady tales, which develop the motif as a vehicle for social ideology. One of the primary agendas of this collection is to promote the non-canonical Loathly Ladies as worthwhile subjects for scholarly consideration. The examinations here of the medieval English Loathly Lady tales engage with a myriad of concerns, including anxieties about virginity and sex, power and assimilation, beauty and beastliness. These broad examinations of this enigmatic literary motif are an excellent contribution to the field and will be of great interest to scholars.

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ISBN:

9781580441230 (hb)

9781580441247 (pb)

PRICE:

\$24.95 (hb)

\$39.95 (pb)

PUBLICATION DATE:

01 February 2008 (hb)

01 February 2008 (pb)

BINDING:

Hardback & Paperback

SIZE:

6 x9

PAGES:

296

PUBLISHER:

Medieval Institute
Publications

IMPRINT:

Medieval Institute
Publications

SERIES:

Studies in Medieval and
Early Modern Culture

READER INTERESTS:

Literary Studies
Medieval Studies