

The Testament of Love

by Thomas Usk, edited by R. Allen Shoaf

DESCRIPTION:

Shoaf here presents a hitherto neglected Middle English text for both undergraduate and graduate classrooms: Thomas Usk's *The Testament of Love*. Left unpublished since the nineteenth century, Usk's modern edition includes glosses, notes, and a contextualizing introduction to assist students of all levels in approaching Usk's Middle English poem. The fourteenth century work describes Love descending to Usk's prison cell, and the two engaging in a long, theological conversation reminiscent of Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*. Notable for its idiosyncratic imagery, wide variety of themes, and Christian sentimentality, *The Testament of Love* is a fascinating text to be studied in any Middle English classroom.

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