THE NEW MIDDLE AGES

BONNIE WHEELER, *Series Editor*

The New Middle Ages is a series dedicated to pluridisciplinary studies of medieval cultures, with particular emphasis on recuperating women's history and on feminist and gender analyses. This peer-reviewed series includes both scholarly monographs and essay collections.

PUBLISHED BY PALGRAVE:

Women in the Medieval Islamic World: Power, Patronage, and Piety

edited by Gavin R. G. Hambly

The Ethics of Nature in the Middle Ages: On Boccaccio's Poetaphysics

by Gregory B. Stone

Presence and Presentation: Women in the Chinese Literati Tradition

by Sherry J. Mou

The Lost Love Letters of Heloise and Abelard: Perceptions of Dialogue in Twelfth-Century France

by Constant J. Mews

Understanding Scholastic Thought with Foucault

by Philipp W. Rosemann

For Her Good Estate: The Life of Elizabeth de Burgh

by Frances A. Underhill

Constructions of Widowhood and Virginity in the Middle Ages

edited by Cindy L. Carlson and Angela Jane Weisl

Motherhood and Mothering in Anglo-Saxon England

by Mary Dockray-Miller

Listening to Heloise: The Voice of a Twelfth-Century Woman

edited by Bonnie Wheeler

The Postcolonial Middle Ages

edited by Jeffrey Jerome Cohen

Chaucer's Pardoner and Gender Theory: Bodies of Discourse

by Robert S. Sturges

Crossing the Bridge: Comparative Essays on Medieval European and Heian Japanese Women Writers

edited by Barbara Stevenson and Cynthia Ho

Engaging Words: The Culture of Reading in the Later Middle Ages

by Laurel Amtower

Robes and Honor: The Medieval World of Investiture

edited by Stewart Gordon

Representing Rape in Medieval and Early Modern Literature

edited by Elizabeth Robertson and Christine M. Rose

Same Sex Love and Desire Among Women in the Middle Ages

edited by Francesca Canadé Sautman and Pamela Sheingorn

Sight and Embodiment in the Middle Ages: Ocular Desires

by Suzannah Biernoff

Listen, Daughter: The Speculum Virginum and the Formation of Religious Women in the Middle Ages

edited by Constant J. Mews

Science, the Singular, and the Question of Theology

by Richard A. Lee, Jr.

Gender in Debate from the Early Middle Ages to the Renaissance

edited by Thelma S. Fenster and Clare A. Lees

Malory's Morte Darthur: Remaking Arthurian Tradition
by Catherine Batt

The Vernacular Spirit: Essays on Medieval Religious Literature
edited by Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski,
Duncan Robertson, and Nancy Warren

Popular Piety and Art in the Late Middle Ages: Image Worship and Idolatry in England 1350–1500
by Kathleen Kamberick

Absent Narratives, Manuscript Textuality, and Literary Structure in Late Medieval England
by Elizabeth Scala

Creating Community with Food and Drink in Merovingian Gaul
by Bonnie Effros

Representations of Early Byzantine Empresses: Image and Empire
by Anne McClanan

Encountering Medieval Textiles and Dress: Objects, Texts, Images
edited by Désirée G. Koslin and Janet Snyder

Eleanor of Aquitaine: Lord and Lady
edited by Bonnie Wheeler and John Carmi Parsons

Isabel La Católica, Queen of Castile: Critical Essays
edited by David A. Boruchoff

Homosexualism and Chivalry: Discourses of Male Same-Sex Desire in the Fourteenth Century
by Richard Zeikowitz

Portraits of Medieval Women: Family, Marriage, and Politics in England 1225–1350
by Linda E. Mitchell

Eloquent Virgins: From Thecla to Joan of Arc
by Maud Burnett McNerney

The Persistence of Medievalism: Narrative Adventures in Contemporary Culture
by Angela Jane Weisl

Capetian Women
edited by Kathleen Nolan

Joan of Arc and Spirituality
edited by Ann W. Astell and Bonnie Wheeler

The Texture of Society: Medieval Women in the Southern Low Countries
edited by Ellen E. Kittell and Mary A. Suydam

Charlemagne's Mustache: And Other Cultural Clusters of a Dark Age
by Paul Edward Dutton

Troubled Vision: Gender, Sexuality, and Sight in Medieval Text and Image
edited by Emma Campbell and Robert Mills

Queering Medieval Genres
by Tison Pugh

Sacred Place in Early Medieval Neoplatonism
by L. Michael Harrington

The Middle Ages at Work
edited by Kellie Robertson and Michael Uebel

Chaucer's Jobs
by David R. Carlson

Medievalism and Orientalism: Three Essays on Literature, Architecture, and Cultural Identity
by John M. Ganim

Queer Love in the Middle Ages
by Anna Klosowska Roberts

Performing Women: Sex, Gender, and the Medieval Iberian Lyric
by Denise K. Filios

Necessary Conjunctions: The Social Self in Medieval England
by David Gary Shaw

Visual Culture and the German Middle Ages
edited by Kathryn Starkey and Horst Wenzel

*Medieval Paradigms: Essays in Honor of Jeremy
duQuesnay Adams, Volumes 1 and 2*
edited by Stephanie Hayes-Healy

*False Fables and Exemplary Truth: Poetics and
Reception of a Medieval Mode*
by Elizabeth Allen

Ecstatic Transformation
by Michael Uebel

*Sacred and Secular in Medieval and Early
Modern Cultures*
edited by Lawrence Besserman

Tolkien's Modern Middle Ages
edited by Jane Chance and Alfred
Siewers

*Representing Righteous Heathens in Late
Medieval England*
by Frank Grady

Byzantine Dress
by Jennifer Ball

The Laborer's Two Bodies
by Kellie Robertson

*The Dogaressa of Venice, 1200–1500: Wife
and Icon*
by Holly S. Hurlburt

*Logic, Theology, and Poetry in Boethius,
Abelard, and Alan of Lille: Words in the
Absence of Things*
by Eileen Sweeney

*The Theology of Work: Peter Damian and the
Medieval Religious Renewal Movement*
by Patricia Ranft

*On the Purification of Women: Churching in
Northern France, 1100–1500*
by Paula Rieder

Writers of the Reign of Henry II: Twelve Essays
Edited by Ruth Kennedy and Simon
Meecham-Jones

*Lonesome Words: The Vocal Poetics of the Old
English Lament and the African-American Blues
Song*
by M. G. McGeachy

*Music in Medieval English Nunneries:
Performing Piety*
by Anne Bagnell Yardley

*The Flight from Desire: Augustine and Ovid to
Chaucer*
by Robert R. Edwards

*Mindful Spirit in Late Medieval Literature:
Essays in Honor of Elizabeth D. Kirk*
edited by Bonnie Wheeler

*Women, Power, and Religious Patronage in the
Middle Ages*
by Erin L. Jordan

*Hybridity, Identity, and Monstrosity, in
Medieval Britain: On Different Middles*
by Jeremy Jerome Cohen

Medieval Go-Betweens and Chaucer's Pandarus
by Gretchen Mieszkowski

MEDIEVAL GO-BETWEENS AND CHAUCEER'S PANDARUS

Gretchen Mieszkowski

palgrave
macmillan

MEDIEVAL GO-BETWEENS AND CHAUCER'S PANDARUS

© Gretchen Mieszkowski, 2006.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2006 978-1-4039-6341-3

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

First published in 2006 by

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN™

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010 and

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England RG21 6XS

Companies and representatives throughout the world.

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN is the global academic imprint of the Palgrave Macmillan division of St. Martin's Press, LLC and of Palgrave Macmillan Ltd. Macmillan® is a registered trademark in the United States, United Kingdom and other countries. Palgrave is a registered trademark in the European Union and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-73191-6

ISBN 978-1-137-08519-1 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-137-08519-1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mieszkowski, Gretchen.

Medieval go-betweens and Chaucer's Pandarus / Gretchen Mieszkowski
p. cm.—(New Middle Ages)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Literature, Medieval—History and criticism. 2. Go-betweens in literature. 3. Lust in literature 4. Love in literature. 5. Chaucer, Geoffrey, d. 1400. Troilus and Criseyde. I. Title. II. Series.

PN682.G64M54 2006

820.9'3538—dc22

2006044813

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by Newgen Imaging Systems (P) Ltd., Chennai, India.

First edition: August 2006

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Transferred to digital printing in 2007.

*For
Peter, Katharine, and Jan*

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction: Going Between	1
Part I Choreographing Lust: Go-Betweens for Sexual Conquest	9
Latin Comedies	20
Fabliaux	38
The Birth of Heroes	55
Four Thirteenth-Century Go-Betweens	58
Dame Hiersent: Women as Property	58
Myrrha's Wicked Nurse	59
La Vieille: Sex Commodified	61
The Old Woman Who Does Not Go Between	67
Five Fourteenth and Fifteenth-Century Go-Between Stories	70
Part II Choreographing Love: Idealized Go-Betweens	79
Conventional Go-Betweens	84
Guinevere— <i>Cligés</i>	84
Alexandrine— <i>William of Palerne</i>	86
Galehot—The Prose <i>Lancelot</i>	89
Blancheflor's Governess— <i>Tristan</i>	95
Cypriane and Delfin— <i>Florimont</i>	95
Herland— <i>Romance of Horn</i>	100
Glorizia—Boccaccio's <i>Filocolo</i>	105
Pity—René d'Anjou's <i>Le Livre du cuer d'amours</i>	106
Go-Betweens Who Intervene	108
Guinevere—The Prose <i>Lancelot</i>	108
Urake— <i>Partonope of Blois</i>	109
Lunete—Chrétien de Troyes' <i>Yvain</i>	115

<i>Claris et Laris</i>	119
<i>Protheseläus</i> : Dating Romance Going Between	124
A Go-Between for Lust in an Idealized Story: <i>Éracle</i>	129
The Two Traditions	134
Part III Choreographing Lust and Love:	
Chaucer's Pandarus	137
Pandarus as Idealized Friend	139
Edging Away from Romance	142
Trafficking in Women	146
<i>Il Filostrato</i>	151
Explaining Pandarus via the Romances	155
Becoming Lovers and the Double	
Go-Between Tradition	160
Woman: The Most Valuable Gift	175
The Double Go-Between Tradition	179
<i>Notes</i>	185
<i>Bibliography</i>	203
<i>Index</i>	213

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book has been long in the making and would never have come to be without the support of a large number of colleagues, friends, and relatives. It is with great pleasure and heartfelt gratitude that I thank them here.

First I wish to thank Marie Borroff, who read the manuscript of this book when it was twice as long as it now is, and whose insightful advice helped me reconceive it. Bonnie Wheeler's excellent suggestions for major revisions also made this a far better book than it would have been, and her contagious enthusiasm sustained my own faith in it. Laura Hodges advised me on costume issues, contributed invaluable bibliographical material, and generously read and critiqued my manuscript-in-progress not once but twice, while her interest in my go-betweens kept me believing that other Chaucerians might find them of interest. Verva Densmore also critiqued an early very long version of this book. I especially want to thank her and Angela Howard for their unflagging enthusiasm about this project, confidence in my ability to complete it, and sisterly encouragement. Jan and Katharine Mieszkowski gave me expert detailed editing suggestions, and Agatha Whitney helped me admirably with the many secretarial chores a book entails.

I also owe a major debt to Penny Eley (Old French and Anglo-Norman) and Traugott Lawler (medieval Latin) for their creative assistance with my translations. They contributed far more than simply saving me from grammatical pitfalls. Any remaining errors are, of course, my own.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the assistance of three institutions: the University of Houston-Clear Lake for two semesters of faculty development leave, the American Council of Learned Societies for funding a crucial year of research, and the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study for providing both access to Harvard's magnificent Widener library during that year and an office in the most supportive feminist environment I have ever experienced.

My debt to Peter, Jan, and Katharine Mieszkowski for their loving support over the years this book has been a part of their lives is inadequately expressed by its dedication.