

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page vii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	viii
Introduction: Life and historical contexts	1
Chapter 1 Love and lore: the shorter poems	12
Remembrance and consolation: <i>The Book of the Duchess</i>	14
A comic cacophony: <i>The House of Fame</i>	20
<i>Concordia discors?</i> <i>The Parliament of Fowls</i>	27
Chapter 2 Fictions of antiquity: <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> and <i>The Legend of Good Women</i>	35
Other worlds: pagan philosophy and desire	35
Fearful Criseyde	42
The <i>makynge</i> of good pagan women	49
Chapter 3 <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>, I: war, love, laughter	58
Moral virtue and cursed rite: the Knight's <i>roman antique</i>	62
Marvels, magic and machines: the Squire, Sir Thopas and the Franklin	69
Masculinity and female agency: Dorigen and Canacee	74
Beyond grotesquerie: the Shipman, Miller, Reeve, Cook and Merchant	80
Taking the morality: <i>The Nun's Priest's Tale</i> and <i>The Manciple's Tale</i>	90

Chapter 4 <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>, II: experience and authority	98
Learning by experience: the Friar and the Summoner	99
Spiritual versus material economies: the Pardoner and the Canon's Yeoman	104
Authorizing women: Alisoun, Prudence, Cecile and Eglentyne	113
Power and patience: Custance, Grisilde and Virginia	123
Endings: the Monk and the Parson	132
<i>Afterword</i>	139
<i>Notes</i>	145
<i>Further reading</i>	151
<i>Index</i>	163