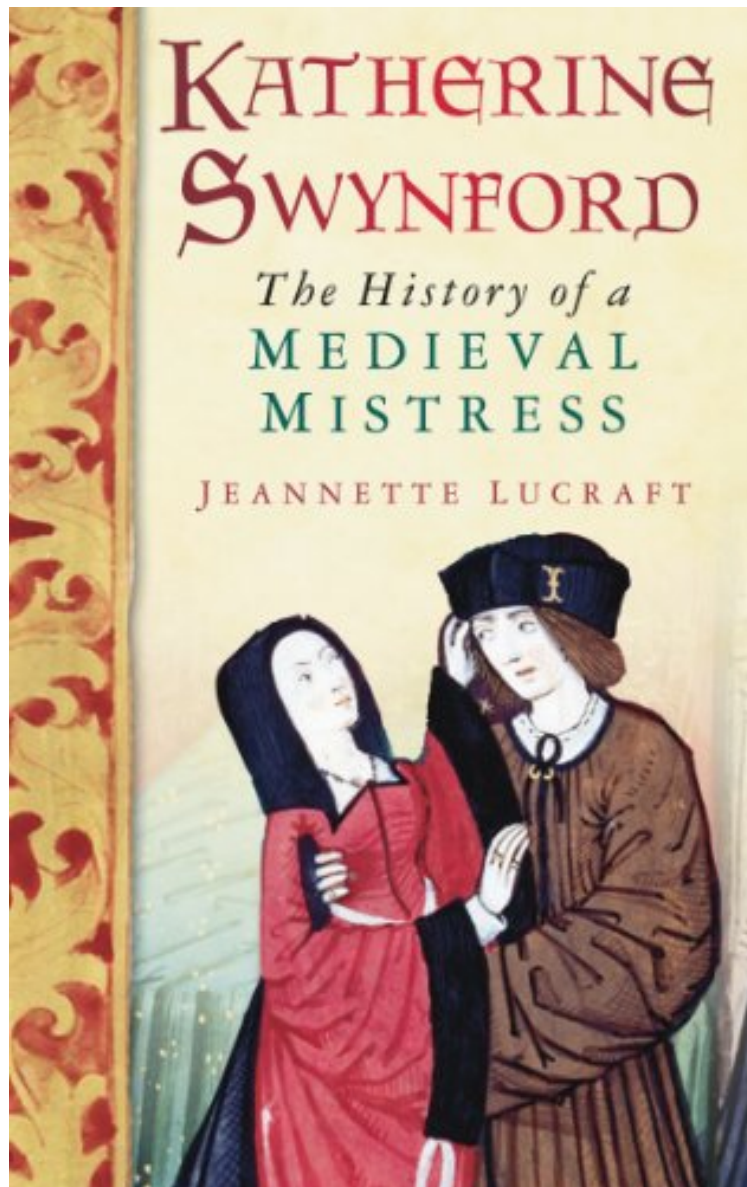


[Library ebook] Katherine Swynford: The History of a Medieval Mistress

Katherine Swynford: The History of a Medieval Mistress

Von Jeannette Lucraft

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Mistress:

Kurzbeschreibung Katherine Swynford - sexual temptress or powerful woman at the centre of the medieval court? This book unravels the many myths and legacies of this fascinating woman, to show her in a whole new life. Katherine was sister-in-law to Geoffrey Chaucer and governess to the daughters of Blanche of Lancaster and John of Gaunt. She also became John of Gaunt's mistress - a role that she maintained for 20 years - and had four illegitimate children by him, from one of whom Henry Tudor was descended. In a move surprising in the fourteenth century, John of Gaunt eventually married her, making her Duchess of Lancaster and stepmother to the future king, Henry Bolingbroke. But who was this extremely well-connected woman? In this fascinating book, Jeannette Lucraft treats Katherine as a missing person and reconstructs her and her times to uncover the mystery of the 'other woman' in John of Gaunt's life.

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Synopsis Katherine Swynford was a medieval English noblewoman, the daughter of one of Edward III's heralds. Marrying into a leading aristocratic family, she became part of the household of Blanche of Lancaster, and mistress to Blanche's husband, John of Gaunt. She bore him four illegitimate children - from one of whom Henry Tudor was descended - and eventually married him, thus becoming Duchess of Lancaster and step-mother to Henry Bolingbroke, who later ascended the throne. But beyond her starring role as the sexual temptress, the immoral governess who diverted her lover from his political concerns, what can we know about her? Katherine Swynford emerges from this groundbreaking historical biography as a powerful figure in the politics of fourteenth-century England, an example of how a woman could manipulate the social mores of the time for her own interests.