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Joan of Arc and Christine de Pizan's Ditié



Karen Green

“In this ingenious study, Karen Green offers a hypothesis to explain one of the most confounding elements of the Joan of Arc story: What was real the nature of the voices from whom she took her orders? Were they of divine origin? Or was Joan hallucinatory? Neither, Green argues. On the contrary, the voices issued from the genuine human beings who trained Joan in the military arts and prepared her arrival at Chinon. Green’s minutely detailed argument about who lay behind the Maid’s rise is both plausible and fascinating, pulling together a number of figures whose associations become increasingly clear and inevitable as the argument that Joan’s sudden appearance was no accident progresses. Drawing on decades of research, Green proposes an original and exciting narrative positing a close relationship between two of the period’s most beloved heroines.”

—Tracy Adams, Auckland University

“In this intriguing book, Karen Green argues that Joan of Arc was trained by Christine de Pizan for her role as savior of France. One of the most perplexing questions that arose in my research concerned how a peasant girl in a distant rural village came to the notice of the dauphin and how she succeeded in a mission when so many others had failed. Green offers intriguing new insights on a connection between Christine and Joan that provides a possible answer.”

—Larissa Juliet Taylor, Colby College

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This study examines the connections between Joan of Arc and Christine de Pizan, as well as the nature and origins of Joan's mission. The author analyzes how Christine's *Ditié* suggests that Joan was trained to fulfill prophecies that Christine had promoted earlier.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karen Green is professorial fellow of philosophy at the University of Melbourne.

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