# Parallel Lines A Tale Of Woe

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with his miller s tale chaucer transformed a colorless middle dutch account into the lively dramatic story of raunchy nicholas sexy alison foolish john and squeamish absolon this book focuses on the ways chaucer made his narrative more effective through dialogue scene division music visual effects and staging the author pays special attention to the description of john the carpenter s house the suspension of the three tubs from the beams and the famous shot window through which the story s bawdy climax is enacted the book s second half covers more than 30 of the tale s retellings translations adaptations bowdlerized versions for children coloring books novels musicals plays and films and examines the ways the retellers have followed chaucer in dramatizing the story giving it new life on stage and screen the miller s tale has had many lives it promises to have many more

in fragments and assemblages arthur bahr expands the ways in which we interpret medieval manuscripts examining the formal characteristics of both physical manuscripts and literary works specifically bahr argues that manuscript compilations from fourteenth century london reward interpretation as both assemblages and fragments as meaningfully constructed objects whose forms and textual contents shed light on the city's literary social and political cultures but also as artifacts whose physical fragmentation invites forms of literary criticism that were unintended by their medieval makers such compilations are not simply repositories of data to be used for the reconstruction of the distant past their physical forms reward literary and aesthetic analysis in their own right the compilations analyzed reflect the full vibrancy of fourteenth century london's literary cultures the multilingual codices of edwardian civil servant andrew horn and ricardian poet john gower the famous auchinleck manuscript of texts in middle english and chaucer's canterbury tales by reading these compilations as both formal shapes and historical occurrences bahr uncovers neglected literary histories specific to the time and place of their production the book offers a less empiricist way of interpreting the relationship between textual and physical form that will be of interest to a wide range of literary critics and manuscript scholars

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the oxford history of poetry in english is designed to offer a fresh multi voiced and comprehensive analysis of poetry from anglo saxon culture through contemporary british irish american and global culture including english scottish and welsh poetry anglo american colonial and post colonial poetry and poetry in canada australia new zealand the caribbean india africa asia and other international locales the series both synthesizes existing scholarship and presents cutting edge research employing a global team of expert contributors for each of the fourteen volumes this volume explores the developing range of english verse in the century after the death of chaucer in 1400 years that saw both change and consolidation in traditions of poetic writing in english in the regions of britain chaucer himself was an important shaping presence in the poetry of this period providing a stimulus to imitation and to creative expansion of the modes he had favoured in addition to assessing his role this volume considers a range of literary factors significant to the poetry of the century including verse forms literary language translation and the idea of the author it also signals features of the century s history that were important for the production of english verse responses to wars at home and abroad dynastic uncertainty and movements towards religious reform as well as technological innovations such as the introduction of printing which brought influential changes to the transmission and reception of verse writing the volume is shaped to include chapters on the contexts and forms of poetry in english on the important genres of verse produced in the period on some of the fifteenth century s major writers lydgate hoccleve dunbar and henryson and a consideration of the influence of the verse of this century on what was to follow

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