FORMS OF DEVOTION IN EARLY ENGLISH POETRY

Jennifer Lorden reveals the importance of deeply felt religious devotion centuries before it is commonly said to arise. Her groundbreaking study establishes the hybrid poetics that embodied its form for medieval readers, while obscuring it from modern scholars. Working across the divide between Old and Middle English, she shows how conventions of earlier English poetry recombine with new literary conventions after the Norman Conquest. These new conventions – for example, love lyric repurposed as devotional song – created hybrid aesthetics more familiar to modern scholars. She argues that this aesthetic, as much as changing devotional practice, rendered later affective piety recognizable in a way that earlier affective devotional conventions were not. *Forms of Devotion in Early English Poetry* reconsiders the roots and branches of poetic topoi, revising commonplaces of literary and religious history. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

JENNIFER A. LORDEN is an Assistant Professor of English at William & Mary. She is the author of *Literary Form in Early Medieval England* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

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The Poetics of Feeling

JENNIFER A. LORDEN
William & Mary

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009390316

DOI: 10.1017/9781009390279

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009390279

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-39031-6 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-39029-3 Paperback

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