

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910746952303321
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Titolo	Astralabe : The Life and Times of the Son of Heloise and Abelard // by Brenda M. Cook
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer Nature Switzerland : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2023
ISBN	9783031320880 3031320883
Edizione	[1st ed. 2023.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxvi, 429 pages) : illustrations (some color)
Collana	The New Middle Ages, , 2945-5944
Disciplina	780.71 230.2092
Soggetti	Literature, Medieval Europe - History - 476-1492 Literature - History and criticism Philosophy, Medieval Medieval Literature History of Medieval Europe Literary History Medieval Philosophy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Star-Crossed Lovers: An Affair and its Consequences -- 2. Astralabe in Fiction 3. Astralabe in Fact -- 4. The "Distaff Side": La Belle, La Sage Heloise -- 5. The Flight into Brittany -- 6. A Boy was born in Brittany -- 7. The "Spear Side": Legend, Lore and Lineage -- 8. Son and Father; Mother and Son -- 9. The Song for young Astralabe -- 10. The Exorcism -- 11. Kith & Kin -- 12. Fortune's Wheel -- 13. A Monk in the Making -- 14. The Paraclete, the Abbess and her Son -- 15. Blood & Grief: the Foundation of the Cistercian Abbey of Hauterive -- 16. The Fourth Abbot -- 17. The Statue of Venus: the mystery of the Kaiserchronik -- 18. Conclusions.
Sommario/riassunto	Two of the most notable figures from the Middle Ages—the volatile, brilliant Abelard and the equally brilliant Heloise—became the parents of their son Astralabe before Abelard's infamous, brutal castration. The

couple spent the rest of their lives as monastics, in each other's orbits if not in shared presence, as they became movers in the glittering monastic world of the early twelfth-century France. What happened to their strangely named Astralabe? *Astralabe: The Life and Times of the Son of Heloise and Abelard* rescues the "lost son" from footnotes and fiction and attempts to tell instead the story of a real man living in Europe in the twelfth century. This book assembles the references to Astralabe, provides background in the history of France and Switzerland, uncovers Abelard's relationships with his family, with the ruling house of Brittany and more, and most importantly draws together all that is known of Astralabe. Brenda M. Cook is a British independent scholar and retired librarian of the Institute of Archeology, University of London.
