

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780419303321
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Titolo	Beasts of love : Richard de Fournival's Bestiaire d'amour and A woman's response // Jeanette Beer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2003 ©2003
ISBN	1-282-02256-3 9786612022562 1-4426-7119-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (233 p.)
Disciplina	844/.1
Soggetti	Courtly love in literature Electronic books. Europa
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Chapter one: Love and Reason -- Chapter two: Love and the Senses -- Chapter three: Remedies for Love -- Chapter four: Love for Women -- Chapter five: The Woman's Response -- Chapter six: Later Developments -- Appendix 1: 'De quoi li home est fais, et de sa nature' -- Appendix 2: Prologue to the Response -- Notes -- Bibliography -- General Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- Q -- R -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Y -- Z Index of Animals A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- M -- O -- P -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Illustrations
Sommario/riassunto	"In her exploration of Le Bestiaire d'amour and the Response, Beer analyses the disparity of their sexual, philosophical, and theological orientations, and considers, animal by animal, this gendered duelling of the two bestiaries, the symbolism of the one calqued upon the symbolism of the other. Largely neglected for seven hundred years, Le Bestiaire d'amour and Response address issues that are universally relevant: male and female expectations in love, sexual dominance,

sexual exploitation, and female strategies for self-preservation in a society where women were powerless and vulnerable."--Jacket

"The first gendered prose debate in a European vernacular, *Le Bestiaire d'amour* and the subsequent *Response* constitute a clash of opposites: a medieval chancellor's erotic bestiary to a woman is countered by the woman's passionate protest against the cleric's misogynistic presuppositions. Jeanette Beer presents a close, linear reading of the two literary texts, examining the context that led to the love-bestiary's production in the thirteenth century (especially an influential version of the *Physiologus* by Pierre de Beauvais), the suggestiveness of the animal symbolism, and the aftermath of the debate."

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