Record Nr. UNINA9910788469603321 Autore Gilbert Jane <1964-> **Titolo** Living death in medieval French and English literature / / Jane Gilbert [[electronic resource]] Cambridge: ,: Cambridge University Press, , 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-511-86175-3 1-107-22087-4 1-283-00611-1 9786613006110 0-511-86018-8 0-511-85931-7 0-511-86105-2 0-511-85844-2 0-511-85757-8 0-511-77729-9 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (viii, 283 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Cambridge studies in medieval literature; ; 84 Collana Classificazione LIT004120 18.05 18.25 Disciplina 820.9/3548 Soggetti English literature - Middle English, 1100-1500 - History and criticism French literature - To 1500 - History and criticism Death in literature Dead in literature Death - Political aspects Death - Moral and ethical aspects Existentialism in literature Ethics in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: living death -- 1. Roland and the second death -- 2. The knight as thing: courtly love in the non-cyclic prose Lancelot -- 3. The

Ubi Sunt topos in Middle French: sad stories of the death of kings -- 4.

## Sommario/riassunto

Ceci n'est pas une marguerite: anamorphosis in Pearl -- 5. Becoming woman in Chaucer: on ne nait pas femme, on le devient en mourant -- Conclusion: living dead or dead-in-life?

Medieval literature contains many figures caught at the interface between life and death - the dead return to place demands on the living, while the living foresee, organize or desire their own deaths. Jane Gilbert's original study examines the ways in which certain medieval literary texts, both English and French, use these 'living dead' to think about existential, ethical and political issues. In doing so, she shows powerful connections between works otherwise seen as quite disparate, including Chaucer's Book of the Duchess and Legend of Good Women, the Chanson de Roland and the poems of Francois Villon. Written for researchers and advanced students of medieval French and English literature, this book provides original, provocative interpretations of canonical medieval texts in the light of influential modern theories, especially Lacanian psychoanalysis, presented in an accessible and lively way.