

MEDIEVAL WOMAN

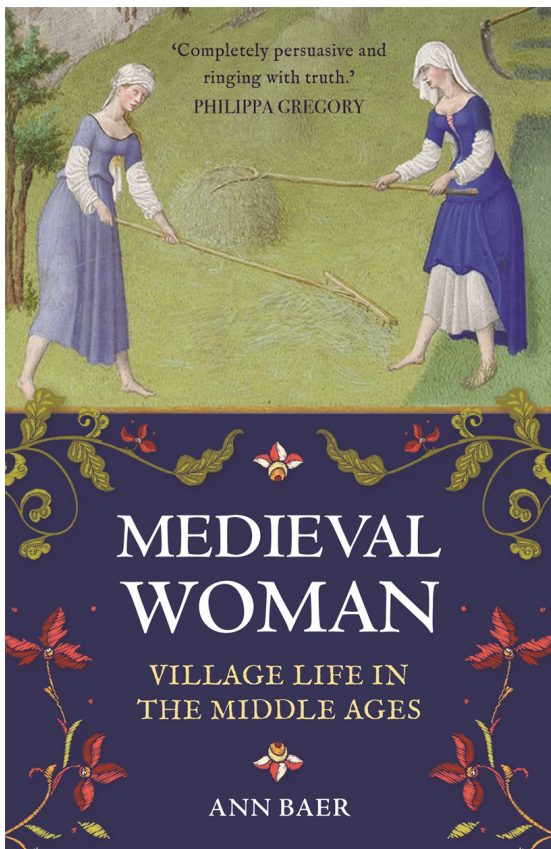
VILLAGE LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

ANN BAER

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Michael O'Mara Books



A year in the life of a peasant woman in medieval England is vividly evoked in this extraordinary portrait of Marion, a carpenter's wife, and her extended family. Based on years of research, Ann Baer brings to life the reality of a world that has been lost.

Rising before dawn in a tiny village to a day of gruelling hard work, Marion and her husband face the daily struggle for survival. Starvation is never far away and travel to the next village is virtually unheard of. Existing without soap, paper or glass and with only the most basic of tools, sickness, fire and natural disaster ever threaten to engulf the small, tightly knit community.

At the mercy of the weather and the Lord of the Manor, each equally unpredictable and inescapable, Marion's life is burdensome but also displays an admirable dignity and fortitude in the face of adversity.

Simple people, living unrecorded lives, in remote out-of-the-way villages are brought back into focus in *Medieval Woman*. This is a unique and very human approach to history, compressing decades of in-depth research on the Middle Ages into one single immersive, compelling narrative, which celebrates the woman at the heart of the community.

"Completely persuasive and ringing with truth"

Philippa Gregory

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ann Baer was born in April 1914, and was a Director of the fine art publishers Ganymed Press. Previously, she attended Chelsea School of Art before working as a civil servant during the Second World War. She hand-illustrated *Medieval Woman*, and has maintained a lifelong interest in medieval England. She is also featured in an upcoming book called *The Century Girls: The Final Word from the Women Who've Lived the Last Hundred Years of British History* by Tessa Dunlop (Simon & Schuster).

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