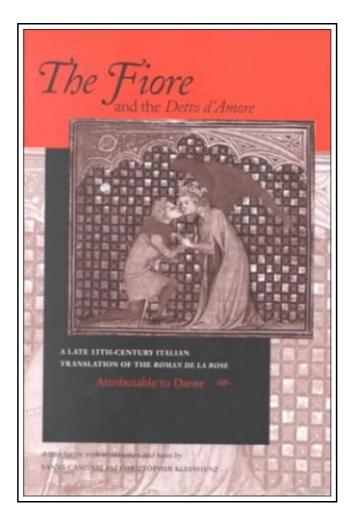
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Reviews

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DANTE'S "FIORE": AND, THE "DETTO D'AMORE" A LATE 13TH-CENTURY ITALIAN TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN DE LA ROSE, ATTRIBUTABLE TO DANTE



University of Notre Dame Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Dante's "Fiore": And, the "Detto D'amore" a Late 13th-century Italian Translation of the Roman De La Rose, Attributable to Dante, Dante Alighieri, Santa Casciani, Christopher Kleinhenz, This is the first English translation of "Il Fiore", the late 13th century narrative poem in 232 sonnets based on the Old French "Roman de la Rose" and the "Detto d'Amore", a free-wheeling version of many Ovidian precepts of love in 240 rhymed couplets. The elaborate allegory of the "Fiore" presents the complex workings of love, understood primarily as carnal passion, in the human psyche through the use of personifications of a wide array of characters who engage in various social (and bellic) interactions. There are personifications of social stereotypes (Lover, Old Woman, Friend), mythological figures (God of Love, Venus, Nature), abstract qualities (Reason, Honour, Beauty, Mercy), material and existential indicators (Wealth, Youth), psychological and physical states (Fear, Resistance, Pain, Jealousy), personality and character traits (Sincerity, Modesty, Fair Welcome, Fair Appearance, Bad Mouth) and societal characteristics and attitudes (Forced Abstinence, Extravagance). The "Detto d'Amore" includes features of the perennial controversy between proponents of the pleasures of erotic passion and those who counsel pursuit of the sublime joys found solely in the exercise of reason. The incomplete poem also contains a conventionalized - and idealized -description of the physical traits of the lady, as well as a portrait of the perfect courtly lover. The importance of these two works lies in part on their possible attribution to the great Florentine poet Dante Alighieri. But even if Dante is not the author, the "Fiore" is a valuable witness to the literary taste and cultural concerns of mediaeval Italy and to matters of poetic influence and reception among different literary traditions.

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