

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	vii
Introduction: The Contemporary and the Contemporaneous	1
1. Secular Law: Rape and <i>Raptus</i>	33
2. The Church: Canon Law, Theology and Popular Teaching	76
3. The Threat of Rape: Saintly Women	120
4. Legendary History: Lucretia and Helen of Troy	152
5. Middle English Romance: Structures of Possession	187
6. Malory's <i>Morte Darthur</i> : A Romance Retrospective	234
7. 'A Dede of Men': Chaucer's Narrative of Rape	265
Conclusion	311
Bibliography	319
Index	337