

Petrak Press, London

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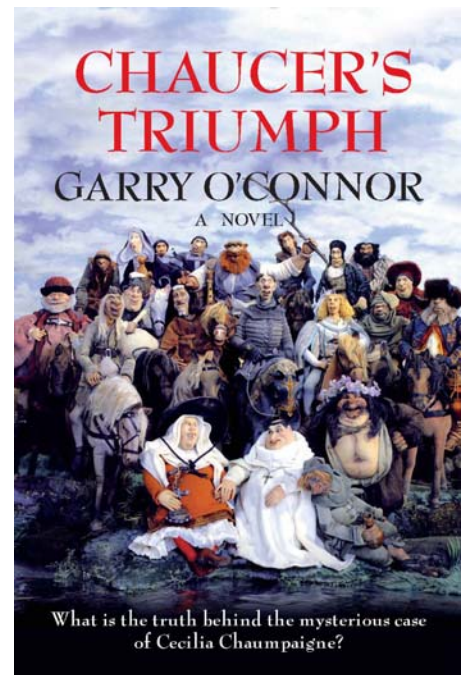
ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET No 2

TITLE	CHAUCER'S TRIUMPH INCLUDING THE CASE OF CECILIA CHAUMPAIGNE the seduction of Katherine Swynford, the murder of her husband, the interment of John of Gaunt and other offices of the flesh in the year 1399
ISBN	0-9553768-0-7 (978-0-9553768-0-1) PRICE £15.99 HB
AUTHOR	GARRY O'CONNOR
PUBLISHER	Petrak Press, London PUBLICATION DATE: February 5th 2007
CATEGORY	historical novel
SPECIFICATIONS	234x 156mm, 304 pages, sewn hardback
WHO WILL BUY THIS BOOK?	Those who enjoy medieval novels. Those with an interest in Chaucer and history of that period

Chaucer is considered one of the greatest, if not the greatest of English poets, as well as the father of our language. Yet there has always lurked a dark secret in his life, a scandal or crime which, from evidence of two different legal documents of his time, has intrigued and mystified scholars for generations, dividing them into warring factions.

In the five days before Prince John of Gaunt's London funeral in March 1399, the body of the great Plantagenet prince is being brought from Leicester Castle for burial in St Paul's. Setting out with it are his family, royal mourners, Katherine Swynford, recently married to him and now his widow, Geoffrey Chaucer, aged fifty-nine, and Adam Scriven, the poet's resentful scrivener or copyist. Not far away, in King's Langley, King Richard II, Gaunt's nephew, who has survived as king only under his protection, plans and manoeuvres to seize Gaunt's huge Lancastrian inheritance and even his body. Scriven has become convinced his master committed the legally recorded rape or abduction of Cecilia Chaumpaigne twenty years earlier, and wants to use this final occasion to discover and test once and for all the truth about Chaucer's crime. But more is at stake than the poet's reputation: the future of England and Gaunt's royal line.

Garry O'Connor has written a riveting historical novel, which brings out the passions of that paradoxically refined and savage age.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Garry O'Connor's previous books include *The Secret Woman*, the explosive and controversial life story of Dame Peggy Ashcroft, serialized in three parts in *The Sunday Times*, as well as acclaimed biographies of Dame Maggie Teyte, Paul Scofield, Shakespeare, Sean O'Casey, and, most recently, Pope John Paul II. Simon Callow, in the *Financial Times* called his life of Sir Ralph Richardson 'a masterpiece', while the *Literary Review* described *Alec Guinness: The Unknown* as 'a truly brilliant detective story', and 'one of the great actor biographies of our time'.

'Absolutely splendid—vivid, dramatic, mysterious and totally involving' Sir Derek Jacobi

'Very witty and highly relevant to the mimetic theory' Professor René Girard

This Petrak Press production is managed by Amolibros - Jane Tatam tel/fax 01823 401527

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