

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
INTRODUCTION	xvi
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE	xxxviii

THE BOOK OF THE CITY OF LADIES

PART I

1. *Here begins the Book of the City of Ladies, the first chapter of which explains why and for what purpose the book was written.* 5
2. *Christine tells how three ladies appeared to her, and how the first of them spoke to her and comforted her in her distress.* 7
3. *Christine recounts how the lady who had spoken to her told her who she was, what her function and purpose was, and how she prophesied that Christine would build a city with the help of the three ladies.* 9
4. *How, before the lady revealed her name, she spoke at greater length about the city which Christine was destined to build, and explained that she was entrusted with the task of helping her to construct the enclosure and external walls.* 12
5. *Christine tells how the second lady gave her name, explained what her role was, and revealed how she would help Christine to lay out the buildings of the City of Ladies.* 13

THE BOOK OF THE CITY OF LADIES

6. *Christine tells how the third lady revealed her name and outlined what her role was, then explained that she would help to finish off the high turrets of the towers and palaces and would bring Christine a queen for her city accompanied by a host of noble ladies.* 14
7. *Christine tells how she replied to the three ladies.* 15
8. *Christine explains how Reason instructed her and helped her to begin digging up the ground in order to lay the foundations.* 16
9. *How Christine dug over the earth: in other words, the questions which she put to Reason and the answers she received from her.* 20
10. *More questions and answers on this subject.* 24
11. *Christine asks Reason why women aren't allowed in courts of law, and Reason's reply.* 29
12. *About the Empress Nicaula.* 30
13. *About a queen of France called Fredegunde, and other French queens and princesses.* 31
14. *More discussion and debate between Christine and Reason.* 33
15. *About Queen Semiramis.* 35
16. *About the Amazons.* 37
17. *About the Amazon queen, Themiris.* 38
18. *How the mighty Hercules and his companion Theseus came from Greece to attack the Amazons with a great army and fleet of ships, and how the two maidens Menalippe and Hippolyta brought them down, horses and all, in a big heap.* 40
19. *About Queen Penthesilea and how she went to the rescue of the city of Troy.* 43
20. *About Zenobia, Queen of Palmyria.* 46
21. *About the noble Queen Artemisia.* 49

CONTENTS

22.	<i>About Lilia, mother of the valiant knight Theodoric.</i>	52
23.	<i>More about Queen Fredegunde.</i>	53
24.	<i>About the virgin Camilla.</i>	54
25.	<i>About Queen Berenice of Cappadocia.</i>	55
26.	<i>About the brave Cloelia.</i>	56
27.	<i>Christine asks Reason if God has ever blessed a woman's mind with knowledge of the highest branches of learning, and Reason's reply.</i>	57
28.	<i>Reason begins to speak about ladies who were blessed with great learning, starting with the noble maiden Cornificia.</i>	58
29.	<i>About Proba the Roman.</i>	59
30.	<i>About Sappho, who was an extremely fine poet and philosopher.</i>	60
31.	<i>About the maiden Manto.</i>	62
32.	<i>About <u>Medea</u>, and another queen named Circe.</i>	63
33.	<i>Christine asks Reason if any woman has ever invented new forms of knowledge.</i>	64
34.	<i>About Minerva, who invented countless sciences, including the art of making arms from iron and steel.</i>	66
35.	<i>About Queen Ceres, who invented agriculture and many other arts.</i>	68
36.	<i>About Isis, who discovered the art of making gardens and growing plants.</i>	69
37.	<i>About all the great good that these ladies have brought into the world.</i>	70
38.	<i>More on the same topic.</i>	71

CONTENTS

6. <i>About Antonia, who became empress of Constantinople.</i>	99
7. <i>Christine addresses Lady Rectitude.</i>	101
8. <i>Here begins a series of daughters who loved their parents, the first of whom is Drypetina.</i>	103
9. <i>About <u>Hypsipyle</u>.</i>	104
10. <i>About the virgin Claudine.</i>	105
11. <i>About a woman who breastfed her mother in prison.</i>	105
12. <i>Here Rectitude explains that the houses of the city have been completed and that it is time they were filled with inhabitants.</i>	107
13. <i>Christine asks Lady Rectitude if it's true what men and books say about the institution of marriage being unbearable because women are so impossible to live with. In her reply, Rectitude begins by discussing the great love that women have for their husbands.</i>	108
14. <i>About Queen Hypsicratea.</i>	110
15. <i>About the Empress Triaria.</i>	112
16. <i>More about Queen Artemisia.</i>	113
17. <i>About Argia, daughter of King Adrastus.</i>	114
18. <i>About the noble lady Agrippina.</i>	116
19. <i>Christine addresses Rectitude, who replies to her with several examples, telling her about the noble lady Julia, daughter of Julius Caesar and wife of the prince Pompey.</i>	117
20. <i>About the noble lady Tertia Aemilia.</i>	118
21. <i>About Xanthippe, wife of the philosopher Socrates.</i>	119
22. <i>About Pompeia Paulina, Seneca's wife.</i>	120
23. <i>About the noble Sulpicia.</i>	121

THE BOOK OF THE CITY OF LADIES

24. *About several ladies who, together, saved their husbands from execution.* 122
25. *Christine speaks to Lady Rectitude about those who claim that women cannot keep a secret. In her reply, Rectitude talks about Portia, Cato's daughter.* 123
26. *On the same subject: about the noble lady Curia.* 124
27. *More on this subject.* 125
28. *Proof against those who claim that only an idiot takes his wife's advice or puts his trust in her. Christine asks some questions to which Rectitude replies.* 126
29. *About various men who did well to trust their wives' advice.* 128
30. *Christine talks about all the good that women have brought into the world, both now and in the past.* 130
31. *About Judith, the noble widow.* 131
32. *About Queen Esther.* 133
33. *About the Sabine women.* 134
34. *About Veturia.* 137
35. *About Clotilde, Queen of France.* 138
36. *Against those who claim that it is not good for women to be educated.* 139
37. *Christine addresses Rectitude, who gives examples to contradict those who claim that few women are chaste, beginning with Susanna.* 141
38. *About Sarah.* 142
39. *About Rebecca.* 143
40. *About Ruth.* 143
41. *About Penelope, Ulysses's wife.* 144

CONTENTS

42.	<i>Against those who assert that there are very few chaste and attractive women: the example of Mariamme.</i>	145
43.	<i>More on this subject: the example of Antonia, wife of Drusus Tiberius.</i>	145
44.	<i>In order to contradict those who claim that women want to be raped, here begins a series of examples, the first of which is <u>Lucretia</u>.</i>	147
45.	<i>On this same subject: the example of the queen of the Galatians.</i>	148
46.	<i>Still on this same subject: the examples of the Sicambrians, and of several virgins.</i>	149
47.	<i>Proofs to refute the view that women are lacking in constancy: Christine asks questions, to which Rectitude replies with various examples of emperors who were unreliable and inconsistent.</i>	150
48.	<i>About Nero.</i>	152
49.	<i>About the Emperor Galba, as well as others.</i>	154
50.	<i>About <u>Griselda</u>, the marchioness of Saluzzo, a woman of unfailing virtue.</i>	156
51.	<i>About Florence of Rome.</i>	161
52.	<i>About the wife of Bernabo the Genoese.</i>	163
53.	<i>After Rectitude has finished talking about women who were steadfast, Christine asks her why it is that all these worthy ladies of the past didn't refute the men and books who slander the female sex. Rectitude gives her answer.</i>	169
54.	<i>Christine asks Rectitude if it's true what certain men have said about how few women are faithful in love, and Rectitude gives her reply.</i>	171
55.	<i>On the subject of women's constancy in love: the example of <u>Dido</u>, Queen of Carthage.</i>	173
56.	<i>About <u>Medea</u> in love.</i>	174

THE BOOK OF THE CITY OF LADIES

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| 57. | <i>About Thisbe.</i> | 175 |
| 58. | <i>About Hero.</i> | 177 |
| 59. | <i>About Ghismonda, daughter of the prince of Salerno.</i> | 178 |
| 60. | <i>About Lisabetta, and other women in love.</i> | 184 |
| 61. | <i>About Juno, and some other famous ladies.</i> | 186 |
| 62. | <i>Christine addresses Rectitude who, in her reply, refutes the view of those who claim that women use their charms to attract men.</i> | 188 |
| 63. | <i>About the Roman woman Claudia.</i> | 189 |
| * 64. | <i>Rectitude explains that some women are loved more for their virtue than others are for their attractiveness. Lucretia</i> | 190 |
| 65. | <i>About Queen Blanche, mother of Saint Louis, and other honest and decent ladies who were loved for their virtue.</i> | 191 |
| 66. | <i>Christine addresses Rectitude who, in her reply, refutes the opinion of those who claim that women are by nature mean.</i> | 192 |
| 67. | <i>About a generous and wealthy woman named Busa.</i> | 194 |
| 68. | <i>About the princesses and ladies of France.</i> | 195 |
| 69. | <i>Christine addresses princesses and all other ladies.</i> | 197 |

PART III

Here begins the third part of the Book of the City of Ladies, which explains how and by whom the high turrets of the towers were finished off, and which noble ladies were chosen to dwell in the great palaces and lofty keeps.

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | <i>The first chapter recounts how Justice brought the Queen of Heaven to live in the City of Ladies.</i> | 201 |
| 2. | <i>About Our Lady's sisters and Mary Magdalene.</i> | 203 |
| 3. | <i>About Saint Catherine.</i> | 203 |

CONTENTS

4. <i>About Saint Margaret.</i>	206
5. <i>About Saint Lucy.</i>	207
6. <i>About the blessed virgin Martina.</i>	208
7. <i>About another Saint Lucy who was a virgin, as well as some other saints who were virgin-martyrs too.</i>	211
8. <i>About Saint Justine and other virgins.</i>	213
9. <i>About the virgin Theodosina, Saint Barbara, and Saint Dorothy.</i>	215
10. <i>About the life of Saint Christine the virgin.</i>	218
11. <i>About several saints who saw their children being martyred in front of them.</i>	224
12. <i>About Saint Marina the virgin.</i>	225
13. <i>About the blessed virgin Euphrosyna.</i>	227
14. <i>About the blessed lady Anastasia.</i>	229
15. <i>About the blessed Theodota.</i>	231
16. <i>About the noble and holy Nathalia.</i>	232
17. <i>About Saint Afra, a repentant prostitute who turned to God.</i>	234
18. <i>Justice talks about several noble ladies who served the Apostles and other saints and gave them shelter.</i>	235
19. <i>The end of the book: Christine addresses all women.</i>	237

NOTES	241
GLOSSARY	244
BIBLIOGRAPHY	280

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7

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