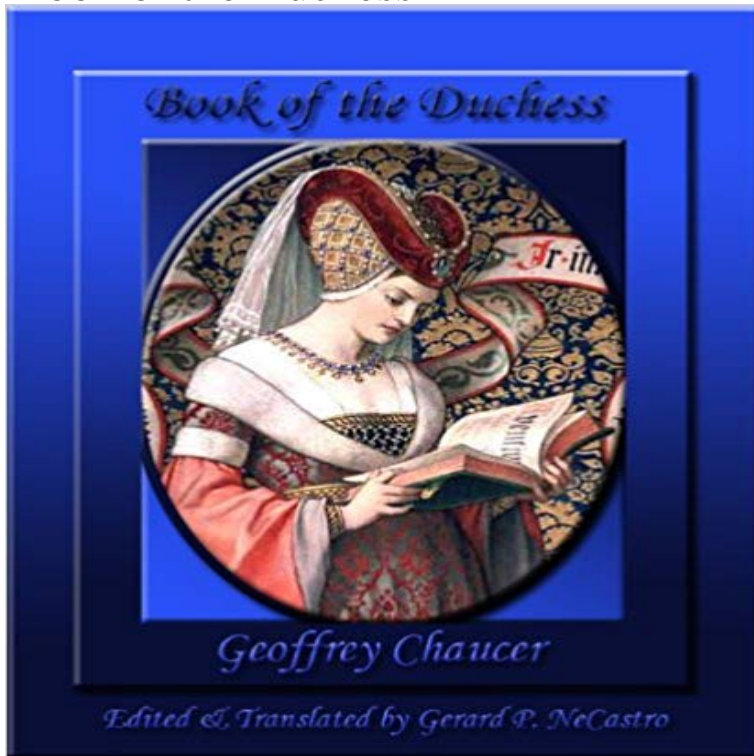


Book of the Duchess



Geoffrey Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess* is the first major poem by the first major author of the English language. Years before he conceived of *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer wrote this poignant though light-hearted memorial of Blanche of Lancaster, the deceased wife of John of Gaunt, the most powerful man in England. In the form of a dream vision, the narrator wakes within his dream to find himself in the midst of a hunt begun by Octavian. As the hunt ends, the narrator comes upon a knight who is lamenting the loss of his beloved. There is something, however, that the dreamer does not understand and will not understand until the end of the story. This is a modern translation of Chaucer's classic work into clear prose. There is no need to fear getting lost in the thees and thous of Middle English.

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