



Chaucer 1340-1400: The Life and Times of the First English Poet

By Richard West

Little, Brown Book Group, United Kingdom, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 203 x 127 mm. Language: N/A. Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This first, and some would say greatest, poet of the English language stands before the gateway of the early modern age. He lived at a time when the elite languages of former conquerors, French and Latin, were both giving way to English - no longer just the vernacular of the common people, but increasingly the language of the court, the law, and of literature. Richard West weaves a fascinating picture of this extraordinary man, whose character has puzzled lovers of his comic masterpiece, *The Canterbury Tales*. How did he remain so apparently cheerful and serene, through one of the cruellest eras of history? As a child he survived the Black Death, later he fought in France during the Hundred Years War, served as a diplomat in Italy, and became an MP at the angry beginnings of the Protestant Reformation, the Peasants Revolt and the overthrow of Richard II.



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