

## *Medieval Modernity*

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From discarded bond wives and sea witches, to bigamists and adulterous women, medieval literature depicts rebellious women as monstrous in a variety of texts ranging throughout the early and later parts of the Middle Ages. From elegies and epic poems to Romance poems and fabliaux, despite their unique forms they all revolve around the othering of women who rebel against the societal constructs of womanhood in each respective time period. “The Wife’s Lament” from The Exeter Book Elegies, Beowulf, Marie de France’s “Bisclavret,” and Chaucer’s “The Miller’s Tale” all share similar themes of how gender is connected to monstrosity with portraying the struggles of female characters with female restriction, rage, and the resulting rebellion against their respective societies. Each medieval text brands the rebellious women as “monstrous” for lashing out against the patriarchal constructs attempt to force conformity to womanhood by controlling female narratives, bodies, and agency.