

## **Praise for Female Deceptiveness: Boccaccio's Penelope**

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**Abstract:** *The medieval reception of Penelope, wife of Ulysses and immortalised by Homer, was dependant on Latin sources particularly those from ancient Rome. In these texts her loyalty is stressed, but there is little to no acknowledgment of her intellect, a factor now largely recognised in studies of her Homeric background. The first Latin author to integrate the Greek and Latin traditions of Penelope was Giovanni Boccaccio in the fourteenth century. While there is doubt about how much Boccaccio really understood much of the Greek text, this paper will demonstrate how access to Homer provided new insights into the chastity of Penelope and her relationship to her husband. In doing so, he provides a rare example of praiseworthy female cunning.*