



The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England

By Barbara A. Hanawalt

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Barbara A. Hanawalt's richly detailed account offers an intimate view of everyday life in Medieval England that seems at once surprisingly familiar and yet at odds with what many experts have told us. She argues that the biological needs served by the family do not change and that the ways fourteenth- and fifteenth-century peasants coped with such problems as providing for the newborn and the aged, controlling premarital sex, and alleviating the harshness of their material environment in many ways correspond with our twentieth-century solutions.

Using a remarkable array of sources, including over 3,000 coroners' inquests into accidental deaths, Hanawalt emphasizes the continuity of the nuclear family from the middle ages into the modern period by exploring the reasons that families served as the basic unit of society and the economy. Providing such fascinating details as a citation of an incantation against rats, evidence of the hierarchy of bread consumption, and descriptions of the games people played, her study illustrates the flexibility of the family and its capacity to adapt to radical changes in society. She notes that even the terrible population reduction that resulted from the Black Death did not substantially alter the basic nature of the family.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In the near-glut of historical family studies, this is the first clearly focused on evidence about families medieval, English, and peasant. Hanawalt uses 3118 coroners' inquests into accidental deaths (mostly 14th century) and manorial court records (13th to early 16th century) to explore families' material environments, wealth, economic activities, life cycles, and surrogates. Nuclear groups created without good evidence of the so-called "Western European" or "Malthusian" marriage pattern lived in conjugal households where spouses were partners. Despite sociocultural changes, human biological needs made the family a tough and flexible institution. Hanawalt's sharp empirical corrective to much theoretical scholarship is informed with a humane understanding of medieval peasant life and belongs in college and public libraries. Richard C. Hoffmann, History Dept., York Univ., Downsview, Ontario
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Review

"I've always wanted to step back into medieval society, to time-travel through England. Thanks to Hanawalt, I have!"--William Van Vugt, *Calvin College*

"Well-written and flows smoothly. Hanawalt uses her sources skillfully to build an intriguing portrait of the daily lives of women and their families in medieval England."--Sylvia McGrath, *Stephen F. Austin State University*

"[An] excellent presentation of medieval life, especially valuable for a course focussing on social history. Clear and vivid, easily comprehended yet subtly argued. Students find it rewarding and interesting."--James Rosenheim, *Texas A & M University*

"As stimulating for the questions it asks as for the answers it provides....[It] will serve as a corrective to those accounts that only see differences and not similarities between past and present."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"A vivid re-creation of the family and community life of English peasants during the later Middle Ages, as well as lively criticism of other historians who have generalized about the subject."--*American Historical Review*

"Meticulous, scholarly, and highly readable....Founded on voluminous and reliable evidence that is interpreted with grace, humanity, and common sense."--David Nicholas, *Speculum*

"An important new and timely venture....Hanawalt must be congratulated for taking up the task in such an energetic and lively fashion."--J.A. Raftis, *Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies*

"A wonderful book....[Hanawalt] brings to her reconstruction of domestic life a wealth of colorful detail....Informed, level-headed, fast-paced, fun to read, and deeply humane."--David Herlihy, *Harvard University*

"The first comprehensive account of peasant families in late medieval England."--*Journal of Social History*

"Diligent research...has enabled Hanawalt to speak authoritatively and engagingly about her subject....A significant contribution on its subject."--*Choice*

"This approach and its detail of everyday mediaeval life make the book of interest to a wide variety of reader. Those who are interested in the mediaeval period (or the family) should not miss it."--*Open History*

From the Back Cover

This richly detailed account offers an intimate view of everyday life in medieval England that seems at once surprisingly familiar and yet at odds with what many experts have told us.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lawanda Beverly:

The knowledge that you get from *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England* could be the more deep you searching the information that hide into the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this kind of *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England* instantly.

David Ramos:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information these days can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking

seriously which one works to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England* as the daily resource information.

Johnny Harper:

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Katherine Khan:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book *The Ties That Bound: Peasant Families in Medieval England* it is very good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

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