

Catherine, Called Birdy is an entertaining book that portrays medieval times in a playful, relatable fashion. The Renaissance setting of Catherine, Called Birdy is very distinct from our time, but it also has similarities. This book, although fiction provides some historical details that are relevant to historical facts. Catherine, Called Birdy was an enjoyable piece of literature that I would recommend to anyone looking for a fun, entertaining novel. Catherine, Called Birdy is an excellent book that provides an amusing look at medieval life.

The Renaissance was a very different time compared to ours, but it was also similar to our time. Catherine, Called Birdy provides some examples. In the book, the main character's (Catherine) father is trying to choose a rich husband for her. Catherine, being a stubborn teenager (according to her father), doesn't want her husband chosen for her. Who would blame her? Imagine marrying someone you've never met, just because your father wanted his land or money. Things have changed since then, in today's world people choose their own partners. Another difference from Renaissance times to ours is the entertainment. Back then they amused themselves with dogfights, fairs and carnivals, hangings (very macabre form of entertainment but a very common back then), dancing, telling stories, , plays and operas, reading, and many other odd forms of entertainment. In present times we entertain ourselves with video games, internet, movie theaters, amusement parks, reading, sports, and other things. Also, back then the citizens of towns and villages were centered on work, religion and the towns well being. Today most people are centered on their family, their religion, and their well being. Yet another difference between our time and the Renaissance time is that the Catholic Church had a huge influence and was practically in charge of the whole European country. In our modern times the church has little influence and going to church isn't mandatory. One final difference is that the treatment of diseases was near prehistoric. If you were sick, you would most likely receive a mixture of herbs and animal fat, instead of the modern medicine tablet. The Renaissance would seem like a strange world to the average person from our time, your father would choose your groom for you, you would entertain yourself by watching dogfights and other odd activities, you would work for the benefit of everyone, not only your benefit, you would be forced to be Catholic or be punished, and if you were ill or had a minor wound, instead of going to the doctor or getting a band-aid, you would be given some concoction made from herbs, animal parts or countless other strange "medications".

This book provides examples of historical information and details that are relevant to historical facts. While reading this book I learned some interesting things about the Renaissance that I didn't know before. One thing I learned was that the Jews were being removed from England because they were thought to be Hell-born and wicked. I think that the Jews were victims of a cruel prejudice and did not deserve to be expelled from their homes without a legitimate reason. Another thing I learned was that women were treated like property and were used for marriage and trade. This was, in my opinion a very disrespectful and sexist thing to do. Women were practically slaves to their husbands, doing all the cleaning, chores, caring for the children cleaning the "privy" (or toilet), and every other job the husband didn't want to do. The last thing I learned is that life back then was not like the stereo-type medieval world we think of. Life was very simple. You could have a good time with as little as a stick. Unless you were a criminal or ill, life would've been enjoyable. This book provided great information about medieval life.

This was a very fun, pleasant book that I would recommend to anyone looking for a great story about medieval times. This book was about a teenage girl that was trying to avoid getting married. She did very weird things to avoid getting wedded including: acting like a retard, rolling in mud and farting next to her grooms. This book was full of humor and mischief, which in my opinion made this text very enjoyable.

This book was an excellent portrayal of medieval life. It was also a great source of information. It had many pieces of information that could be compared to modern time. This book was very enjoyable; humorous.

Catherine, Called Birdy

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