

BURNED

RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE ONE BOOK AT A TIME

The story of *The Malleus Maleficarum* is hardly the only literary work in history that could use a closer examination. Our bewitching librarians will share each true tale-within-a-tale one book at a time.



For nearly 400 years one book served as a tool to torture and murder 100,000+ women, yet the fact that it was created as a sexually frustrated rage post wasn't taken into account. **BURNED** reminds us to question sources and takes the quill back from one of the first trolls. Now our librarians are taking other books off the shelf to set the records straight.



A little Princess Bride, and a dash of Drunk History, all to reclaim the narrative.

The Episode Well

**The Book of the City of Ladies & The Treasure of the City of Ladies*

Christine de Pizan wrote for King Charles VI to support her family, and her prolific work was openly feminist, featuring early references to Medusa as a victim rather than a monster. Her work has largely been lost to the English-speaking world for far too long.

**Tragica Historia*

This was the first written account of "The Blood Countess," Elizabeth Bathory's case. Tried for killing 650 girls and bathing in their blood, this wealthy noblewoman was convicted on the testimony of her servants provided under torture, without bodies nor reports of missing girls, and to the financial gain of her accusers, and yet the rumors helped create the legend of Dracula.

**Newton's Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*

The French translation of Newton's book was so good it's still considered standard, and it was done by one Emilie du Chatelet - a collaborator and romantic partner of Voltaire's who has been turned into a footnote of his thanks to the romance, despite being prolific and brilliant on her own. It's rumored she wrote much of the work he's credited with.

**Carrie*

A young writer was working as a teacher when one of his students killed herself. In his novel, he created an alternative reality where his student not only survived but visited vengeance on her tormentors. But one night in a drunken stupor, he threw his manuscript in the trash. Had it not been for his wife finding it, Stephen King may not have had his breakout success, nor Carrie her revenge.

**Exaltation of Inanna*

Enheduanna has been celebrated as the earliest known named author in world history. She was priestess of the moon god Nanna (Sin) in the Sumerian city-state of Ur in the reign of her father, Sargon of Akkad (r. c. 2334 - c. 2279 BCE), but considerable debate among modern Assyriologists as to whether or not she actually wrote or composed any of the works that have been attributed to her has been published, especially those who doubt a woman could have filled such a role.

**Annus Mirabilis Papers*

Mileva Marić-Einstein was married to Albert and quite a bit of debate exists around how responsible for his breakthroughs and papers she is. A genius in her own right, his greatest breakthroughs all happened while they were together and took a marked turn after their divorce.

****A Wrinkle In Time***

Madeleine L'Engle wanted to explore concepts like the nature of space and time, individual and familial redemption. She wanted to explore the potential for human knowledge through fiction, but amid the struggles of being a mom and the many rejections and lack of success by 40, she was depressed. So, she gave up writing and focused on life. It was then, while throwing her mother a party, that she met the publisher who would say "Yes" to her book in 1962.

****The Declaration of the Rights of Women***

Olympe de Gouges, born Marie Gouze, was a political activist and writer during the French Revolution who renamed herself after her husband's death and was a prolific writer. Initially, a supporter of the revolution she became disillusioned when the egalite promised didn't extend to women, but her outspoken outrage led to the new government arresting and beheading her.

****Hypatia of Alexandria***

Hypatia was a beloved scholar and teacher who edited the surviving text of Ptolemy's *Almagest*. She was known for being welcoming to those of all religious backgrounds and advised various politicians who respected her. This angered some Christians, who had a mob attack, rape, and kill her. Years later, Christians co-opted her as a symbol of Christian virtue with scholars believing she was part of the basis for the legend of Saint Catherine of Alexandria.

****The Forgotten Queens of Islam***

Though depicted in some Western writings as just The Pirate Queen, Sayyida al-Hurra was so much more. As a child her family fled Granada upon its capture, she married a Moroccan Governor and when he died, took over the title. She turned to piracy for revenge on Christians she blamed for her family's exit from Granada, later married a Moroccan Sultan, and was the last independent queen in Islamic history.

****De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae***

In his work, British monk Gildas includes one of the earliest possible mentions of Boudica. He describes her as a "treacherous lioness" and Roman historians certainly portray her as a butcher. But this Celtic queen was a local hero, as she led a revolt against Roman invasion and rule in ancient Britain in A.D. 60 or 61. Her husband died, leaving his lands and rule to their two daughters, but Romans ignored his will, took his land, beat Boudica, and raped her daughters. So she rallied the tribes to fight back and burned Londinium, causing Nero to briefly consider abandoning the British Isles.

****White Fang***

This classic novel-turned-film by Jack London introduced the world to one particularly loveable wolfdog. Although a compelling adventure, aspects of the story cannot escape the racial prejudices of its author, London even once elaborated on his supremacist views explicitly in an essay entitled "The Salt of the Earth."

****A Letter for Herman Melville***

Manuela Sáenz, lover of the revolutionary leader Simón Bolívar, went into battle with him, achieved the rank of colonel, and saved Bolívar from assassination at least twice. But when Bolívar died she had no resources and spent her days in a small coastal village in Peru where she wrote letters for sailors including Herman Melville. Her role in Latin America's independence has only recently been recognized.

****Peter Pan***

The story of the leader of the Lost Boys who never grows up was inspired by the author's friendship with 5 brothers, and by the death of his own 12-year-old brother. James Barrie would try and impersonate his lost brother to get his mother's attention but found he couldn't compete with the boy who would remain forever young in her mind.

****The Book of Margary Kempe***

Considered the first autobiography (dictated) in English, Margary Kempe's story gives a glimpse into middle-class life in the middle ages, and it's a glimpse that included what would today be post-partum but at the time was labeled demonic possession and had her tried for heresy.

****The Story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith***

Disney wasn't the first one to get this story wrong. Years later, when few witnesses still survived, John Smith wrote how she saved him when she was just 11, and he added the first hints of a love story. Now we'd have a word for that. She married a man from her tribe, was kidnapped, and later married a different John and died young in England. She was far braver, smarter, and more complicated than we've been taught.

****De la Grande Turchia***

In his writings, Marco Polo mentions a Mongol Princess named Khutulun who had a standing offer to marry any man who could out-wrestle her, or he owed her 100 horses. She died with 10,000 horses and no husbands. In her culture, she's remembered as an athlete and warrior, but Western adaptations portray her as a woman who succumbs to love.