



Dreaming the English Renaissance

Politics and Desire in Court and Culture

Carole Levin

This fascinating book explores the cultural and social significance of dreams and dreaming during the Tudor/Stuart age. Carole Levin looks at ideas about dreams, actual dreams people had and recorded, and the many ways dreams intersected with contemporary culture and politics in order to provide a window into the mental life and the most profound beliefs of people of the time.

"*Dreaming the English Renaissance* is cultural history at its very best, providing unusual access into the hopes and fears of early modern men and women. A deeply rewarding read for anyone interested in the turbulent social, political, and religious world of Tudor and Stuart England."

--James Shapiro, Columbia University

"Carole Levin's mesmerizing account begins with Richard Haydock, the 'sleeping preacher' at the court of King James. Haydock analogized dreams to 'a stone cast into the water, from which arises presently a circle, which instantly begets another, and yet a third.' Just so, historical import and new understandings ripple from the remarkable dreams, nightmares, premonitions, and visions Levin has rediscovered. Her careful analysis of unconventional sources gives us a Renaissance that is at once more wonderfully strange and more intimately knowable than we have ever had before.

--Lena Cowen Orlin, Georgetown University

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Carole Levin is Willa Cather Professor of History at the University of Nebraska. She is the author of *The Heart and Stomach of a King: Elizabeth I and the Politics of Sex and Power* and *The Reign of Elizabeth I*.

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