

Romeo and Juliet before Shakespeare: Four Early Stories of Star-Crossed Love

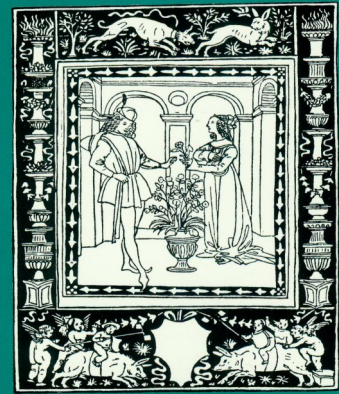
TRANSLATED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY
NICOLE PRUNSTER

This volume contains modern English translations of Italian and French forerunners to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. A thoughtful introduction traces the evolution of the tale of the two Veronese lovers.

Masuccio Salernitano (ca. 1410–75) wrote the posthumously published *Novellino*, a collection of fifty short stories, including "Mariotto and Ganozza." A retired soldier, Luigi Da Porto (1485–1529), authored letters, poems, and one novella, "A Tale about Two Noble Lovers." The Lombardian, Matteo Bandello (1485–1561), abandoned the Dominicans in favour of court life, which enabled him to write his major literary work: a collection of 214 novellas, including "The Unfortunate Death of Two Most Wretched Lovers." Pierre Boaistuau (ca. 1517–66), best known as the first publisher of Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptaméron*, adapted six of Bandello novellas into French, including "Of Two Lovers."

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of Star-Crossed Love*



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