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Literary histories of English women's writing have, traditionally, had little time for the early medieval period. Early medieval women are excluded from teleologies that celebrate the emergence of authorship and literature, understood in specific and restrictive terms, and that only acknowledge certain narrowly defined forms of textual production. They are omitted from linear temporal paradigms that already struggle to accommodate the vernacular visionary writings of the later medieval period and the devout poetry of the Renaissance, but which incorporate far more easily the dramatic texts of By also considering women's writing in the context of the deeply multicultural and multilingual milieu which was medieval 'Britain', it uncovers a wide range of women's literary activity undertaken in Latin, Welsh and Anglo-Norman as well as in the English vernacular and, in so doing, demands a rethinking of the long-established traditions of 'English' literary history and. Literature in Pieces: female sanctity and the relics of early women's writing (500-1150) more. by Diane Watt. Publication Date: Dec 2012. Publication Name: The Cambridge History of Early Medieval English Literature. Research Interests: Old English Women's Writing Anglo Saxon. Women's writing as a discrete area of literary studies is based on the notion that the experience of women, historically, has been shaped by their gender, and so women writers by definition are a group worthy of separate study. "Their texts emerge from and intervene in conditions usually very different from those which produced most writing by men." It is not a question of the subject matter or political stance of a particular author, but of her gender: her position as a woman within the literary