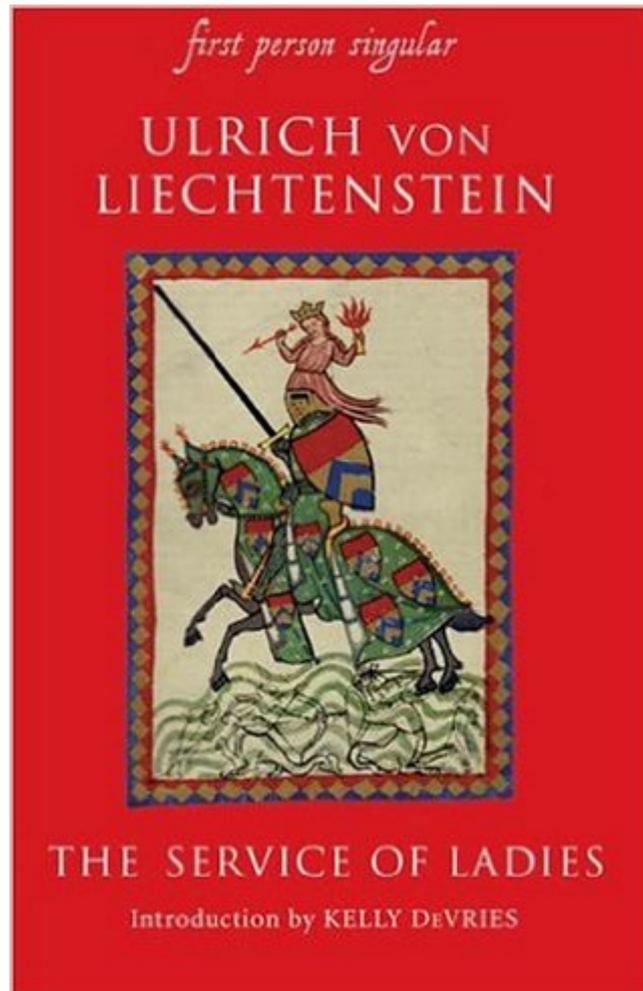


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The Service Of Ladies: An Autobiography (First Person Singular)



Synopsis

Ulrich von Liechtenstein's extraordinary account of his adventures as a knight-errant is one of the most vivid images of chivalric life to have come down to us. His knightly autobiography was written in the mid-thirteenth century, and gives an account of the 'journey of Venus' which he undertook in 1226 in honour of his lady, in which he claimed to have broken 307 spears in jousts against all comers in the space of a month. Some of it is obviously quietly exaggerated, written for his friends' entertainment many years later, and he is not above a sly dig at the conventions of courtly love, but he completely accepts its basic ideas. It is full of lively episodes and good stories, as well as verses in honour of his lady; if the tale has been polished up for effect, it is nonetheless a thoroughly entertaining account of how a knight saw his ideal career in the jousting field. If the name is unexpectedly familiar to modern readers, it is because it was borrowed by the hero of the film 'A Knight's Tale'; Ulrich would have certainly approved of his exploits. Introduction by KELLY DEVRIES.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Written in octasyllabic rhyming couplets, this book tells of the adventures of the real life Ulrich von Liechtenstein. The lady whose affections he is trying to win, is really not very nice, but Sir Ulrich has a grand adventure none the less.

This presents a revealing aspect of the age of chivalry. Luckily, while on his quest to win over his

paramour, he had a wife capable of managing his estate and raising the kids alone. In modern times, this would not seem to actually be in the service of women, but a demented adventure to make her obligated for sexual favors. A great insight in the mind of the nobility of the time. This cross dressing adventure is too good to miss. Read it!

I am looking forward to really sitting down and reading this book. I skimmed a bit of it and it's the embellished story of Ser Ulrich Von Lichtenstein's adventures in poem form. Looks like it will be a quick read. I'd recommend this for anyone who has even the slightest interest in courtly love and knights.

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