



# Miracles at the Jesus Oak: Histories of the Supernatural in Reformation Europe

*Craig Harline*

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In the tradition of *The Return of Martin Guerre* and *The Great Cat Massacre*, *Miracles at the Jesus Oak* is a rich, evocative journey into the past and the extraordinary events that transformed the lives of ordinary people.

In the musty archive of a Belgian abbey, historian Craig Harline happened upon a vast collection of documents written in the seventeenth century by people who claimed to have experienced miracles and wonders. In *Miracles at the Jesus Oak*, Harline recasts five of these testimonies into engaging vignettes that open a window onto the believers, unbelievers, and religious movements of Catholic Europe in the Age of Reformation.

*Miracles at the Jesus Oak* transports readers to the seventeenth-century Spanish Netherlands and into the company of a flesh and blood and captivating set of people. Combining meticulous historical research and storytelling élan, Harline writes about the competition for pilgrims waged between a group of tailors and a group of nuns; takes readers inside the emotional turmoil of a young prostitute who secretly takes away a consecrated host from Mass; explores the political and religious ramifications that arise when a woman's breasts miraculously fill with milk enabling her to feed a starving infant; and in the title story, describes how two towns fight each other for control of the miracle-working oak tree that lies between them.

Craig Harline's previous books have won the praises of both the mainstream and the religious press. The *Weekly Standard* said *A Bishop's Tale* "reads like the very best historical fiction . . . the history book of the year—and perhaps simply the book of the year." Written with grace and charm, *Miracles at the Jesus Oak* is popular history at its most informative and enlightening.

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