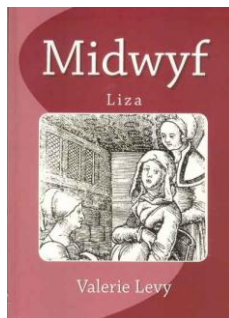


**Midwyf Liza** by Dr Valerie Levy (2010)



Published by the author: paperback, 237 pp.; available through Amazon, £4.50.

This is the first of what promises to be a fascinating series of historical novels, each with a midwife as the central character. Set in the fourteenth century, the novel focuses on the life of a village midwife widowed by the plague. It is a life full of dilemmas and hardships. There is intrigue, violence, sex and pestilence in a fast-moving plot.

The details of medieval life are fascinating. The writing shows real insight into the beliefs and feeling of a medieval midwife. The author skilfully conveys the tensions and contradictions in the social position of an isolated woman whose skills are needed by all levels of the society in which she lives but who is feared and badly treated by many. The midwifery details are right, as we would expect from a well-known midwife.

This is a thoroughly good read and would make an excellent present for any midwife or reader of historical novels. I thoroughly recommend it.

Mavis Kirkham  
(Emeritus Professor of Midwifery  
Sheffield Hallam University)