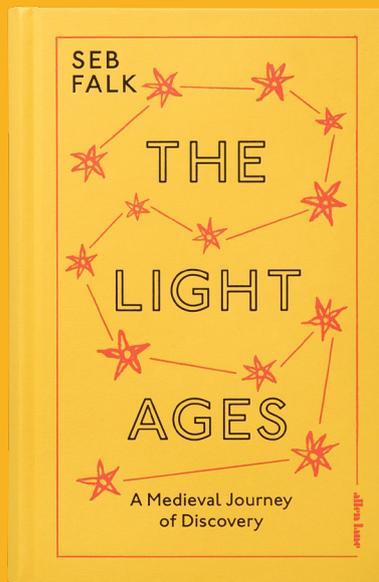


THE LIGHT AGES

A MEDIEVAL JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

SEB FALK



'Compulsive, brilliantly clear, and superbly well-written, *The Light Ages* is more than just a very good book on medieval science: it's a charismatic evocation of another world. There are surprises galore for everyone, no matter how knowledgeable they may think they are. I can't recommend it highly enough'

IAN MORTIMER

'Seb Falk has framed a fascinating book around his personal quest to understand how scientific thinking flourished. A novel perspective on a 'dark' historical era, and should fascinate a wide readership'

LORD MARTIN REES

'How blissful it was to leave the 21st century behind and immerse myself in this debut. Through [John of Westwyk's] eyes, we embark on a wondrous voyage of discovery: navigating by the stars, multiplying Roman numerals, curing disease and telling time with an astrolabe; the medieval smartphone'

**EDITOR'S CHOICE FOR SEPTEMBER,
THE BOOKSELLER**

'If you think the term 'medieval science' is a contradiction then you should read this hugely enlightening and important book'

JIM AL-KHALILI

'Like a fictional scientist cloning dinosaurs from wisps of DNA, Seb Falk takes barely surviving fragments of evidence about an almost forgotten astronomer in a storm-chilled, clifftop cell to conjure the vast, teeming world of scientific research, practice and invention in the late Middle Ages. Profoundly scholarly, wonderfully lucid and grippingly vivid'

FELIPE FERNÁNDEZ-ARRESTO

'A wonderful book, as at home bringing to life the obscure details of a Hertfordshire monk as it is explicating the infinite reaches of space and time. Required reading for anyone who thinks that the Middle Ages were a dark age'

TOM HOLLAND

'Long before the word 'scientist' was coined, John of Westwyk devised a precision instrument to explore the universe and our place in it. Falk recreates the schooling of this ordinary (if gadget-obsessed) medieval monk in loving detail. There's a world of science on every page'

NANCY MARIE BROWN

allen lane

9780241374252 | September 2020 | £20 | Hardback