

## **Limits of Narrative in Christine de Pizan's *Cité des Dames***

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In Christine de Pizan's *Livre de la Cité des Dames* (1405), autobiographical narration at the frame level alternates with biographical narration in the form of lives of famous women. Embedded within this are phenomena that resist narratological categorisation in Gérard Genette's sense, in particular allegory and the *quaestio disputata*. The paper will examine the individual techniques and their interplay, exploring the effect they have in relation to Christine's intention to defend the female sex against misogynistic attacks.