



Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture

Marilyn B. Skinner

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Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture is the first comprehensive survey of ancient Greek and Roman sexuality.

Covers a wide range of subjects, including Greek pederasty and the symposium, ancient prostitution, representations of women in Greece and Rome, and the public regulation of sexual behavior.

Introduces readers to the bitter theoretical debates that have been fought about gender and sexuality in the classical world.

The material is ordered chronologically.

Draws parallels between ancient sexual ideology and contemporary culture.

Draws on literary, artistic and archaeological sources, as well as secondary scholarly sources.

Theoretically sophisticated and skillfully argued, yet accessible.

Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture Details

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From Reader Review Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture for online ebook

Colin says

A brilliant overview of issues regarding ancient Greek and Roman sexuality (an area that is marginalized in Classical studies even now, I feel, relative to its actual importance in understanding the Classics). Absolutely worth reading for the Classicist, not so much for the armchair enthusiast of ancient Greek and Roman studies . . .

Petruccio Hambasket IV says

What Marilyn Skinner has done here is create that special type of textbook you only really get to find maybe every few years. I'm talking about the type that you can really sink into without it's air of academic moralizing and pedantic probing derailing you from the assembled content, and the content is engaging to be sure. The study of historical sexuality is a vibrant and relatively fresh field no matter what time period is examined but in this study Skinner focuses on Ancient Greece (Homeric, Early/Late Archaic, Classical, Early/Late Hellenistic) and Rome (Republic and Empire). It's clear that Skinner has more experience dealing with the Grecian side of things but the Roman world is certainly not slept on either.

What I love most about this guide to ancient sexuality is how often primary sources are contrasted with each other and how often Skinner will provide her own (often quite insightful) explanation of things. This book is far from being an echo of prior scholarship: Skinner has a tight grasp on the plethora of idea's contemporary (and not so contemporary) scholarship has when it comes to certain ideas, and she is not afraid to challenge or comment on concepts she thinks seem dubious or matured. Often enlightening and certainly guaranteed to help your knowledge of this growing field. Skinner's writing can be graceful and analytic within a heartbeat as well, and if anyone were to doubt her credentials for trying to tackle such an authoritative guide just check out her academic resume (22 pages) for some convincing reassurance. If you're eager to understand the complicated role of sex in classical mythology or maybe you just wanna figure out why the Ancient Greeks liked little boys, whatever it is, this is the book to start with.

David says

This book is a textbook example (no pun intended) of how you can take a VERY interesting topic and tell it in such a ridiculously boring way that your readers will have to literally force themselves to read every page and end up losing all interest in the topic due to writer's horrible writing skills. This writer should take a writing class and learn how to write an interesting book before writing another book like this. This book had everything a boring and uninteresting book should have. If the author's intention was to bore her readers to death, she surely did an excellent job.

Worst of all, the book is not even titled correctly. When you look at the book's title, you expect to read about sexuality of Greeks and Romans in the old days but all the book talks about is how Greeks and Romans viewed homosexuality in the old days. The book's title should have been "Homosexuality in Greek and Roman Culture" because the current title is grossly misleading.

Matthew says

Guess what, Ancient Greeks and Romans were very sexual. Being gay back then was normal. This is a great historical book on sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome.

Kyle Wendy Skultety (gimmethatbook.com) says

Excellent and thorough compendium of sexuality as demonstrated by art and culture (plays, poems) in ancient Greece and Rome. Art historians will be interested in this text as well, due to the many objets d'art shown and discussed. Overt and hidden sexuality is discussed, along with the impact it had on religion, politics, entertainment, and family life.

At the end of each chapter there are discussion questions and links for further understanding of the chapter's main ideas.

Notable also is the correlation drawn between gender identities in both ancient and modern times. Skinner's style is exacting and easy to follow, and she writes without judgement or censorship.

I took away a greater knowledge of Greek and Roman culture, as well as a better insight into the Ids of these fascinating people. This book will be referred to many times in the future.

Tara Calaby says

It's been so long since I read this that I can't really remember the details, but going by the rating I gave at the time, it was good!

Kelley Ross says

This is a really interesting read and definitely made me enjoy my Classics sexuality class more, but the book wouldn't quite be the same if it wasn't assigned with other readings. (For instance, an understanding of Foucault is assumed.)
