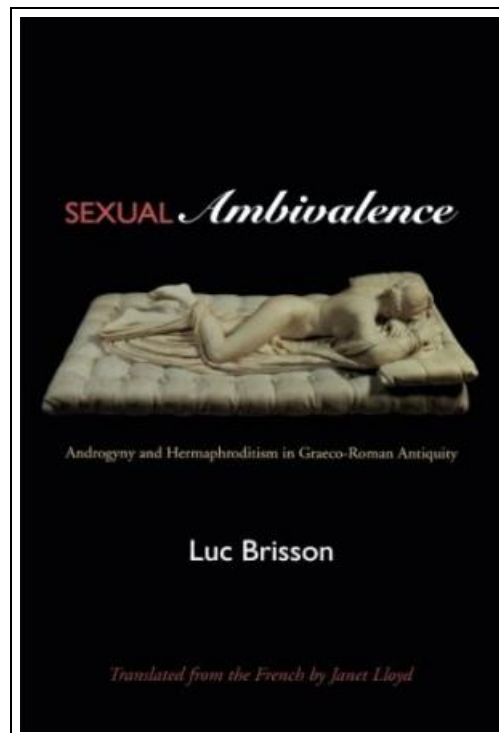


Sexual Ambivalence: Androgyny and Hermaphroditism in Graeco-Roman Antiquity (Paperback)



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Reviews

It is one of the best books. Better than never, though I am quite late in starting to read this one. You won't feel monotony at any moment of the time (that's what catalogues are for regarding in the event you check with me).
(Dr. Kristin Dickens)

SEXUAL AMBIVALENCE: ANDROGYNY AND HERMAPHRODITISM IN GRAECO-ROMAN ANTIQUITY (PAPERBACK)



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University of California Press, United States, 2002. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This fascinating book collects and translates most of the extant written Graeco-Roman material on human beings, divinities, animals, and other creatures who were said to have been both female and male. Luc Brisson provides a commentary that situates this rich source material within its historical and intellectual contexts. These selections--from mythological, philosophical, historical, and anecdotal sources--describe cases of either simultaneous dual sexuality, as in androgyny and in hermaphroditism, or successive dual sexuality, as in the case of Tiresias (the blind Theban prophet), which are found through the whole span of Graeco-Roman antiquity. Sexual Ambivalence is an invaluable sourcebook that gathers this suggestive, yet hard to find, material in one convenient place. This book presents some very obscure but wonderfully strange material. There is the ghost story about a father who returns from the dead to devour his dual-sexed son in the public square, leaving behind only the head, which proceeds to deliver a prophecy from its position on the ground. In addition to including such familiar sources as the myths of Salmacis and Hermaphroditus as told in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Aristophanes' myth of the origins of the sexes and sexuality in Plato's *Symposium*, Brisson also discusses cosmogonic mythology in Hesiodic poetry, the Orphic Rhapsodies, Gnosticism, the Hermetic Corpus, and the so-called Chaldean Oracles. He presents the manifold variants of the myth of Tiresias, as well as many other sources. Brisson quotes this material at length and discusses its significance in Graeco-Roman myth and philosophy. These ancient stories open a window onto a world without the sexual oppositions of male and female, a paradise of unity and self-containment, as well as onto the peculiar world of go-betweens like the prophet Tiresias. They deepen...



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