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# Daughters of Hecate: Women and Magic in the Ancient World

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# Daughters of Hecate: Women and Magic in the Ancient World

**Daughters of Hecate: Women and Magic in the Ancient World**
*Daughters of Hecate* unites for the first time research on the problem of gender and magic in three ancient Mediterranean societies: early Judaism, Christianity, and Graeco-Roman culture. The book illuminates the gendering of ancient magic by approaching the topic from three distinct disciplinary perspectives: literary stereotyping, the social application of magic discourse, and material culture.

The authors probe the foundations of, processes, and motivations behind gendered stereotypes, beginning with Western culture's earliest associations of women and magic in the Bible and Homer's Odyssey. *Daughters of Hecate* provides a nuanced exploration of the topic while avoiding reductive approaches. In fact, the essays in this volume uncover complexities and counter-discourses that challenge, rather than reaffirm, many gendered stereotypes taken for granted and reified by most modern scholarship.

By combining critical theoretical methods with research into literary and material evidence, *Daughters of Hecate* interrogates a false association that has persisted from antiquity, to early modern witch hunts, to the present day.

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