



## Trying Neaira: The True Story of a Courtesan's Scandalous Life in Ancient Greece

*By Debra Hamel*

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Apollodorus and Stephanos of Athens had faced each other in court on a number of occasions, but their running feud was brought to a head in the late 340s when Stephanos' lover Neaira was prosecuted for transgressing Athenian marriage laws. Building on Apollodorus' speech from the trial and other source material, Debra Hamel recreates Neaira's life and experiences from her lowly origins in a brothel in Corinth, to a highly paid courtesan and sex slave, her retirement and 30-year relationship with Stephanos. Neaira's story allows Hamel to touch on many aspects of Athenian social history, from issues of prostitution and adultery, to religion and slavery, the life of a female non-citizen, to the legal process of the 4th century. An engaging story through which Hamel offers an extraordinary window onto Athenian society.

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#### About the Author

Debra Hamel is the author of *Athenian Generals: Military Authority in the Classical Period*. She lives in Connecticut.

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