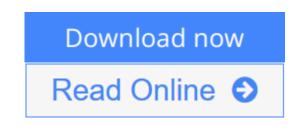


Trying Neaira: The True Story of a Courtesan's Scandalous Life in Ancient Greece

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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Trying Neaira: The True Story of a Courtesan's Scandalous Life in Ancient Greece By Debra Hamel Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2211868 in Books
- Published on: 2003-12-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .78" h x 5.64" w x 8.68" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 200 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"This clearly written, entertaining, and well-informed book is a wonderful means of entering the world of fourth-century Athens." Mary R. Lefkowitz, Wellesley College "Debra Hamel has written a marvelous account of a fascinating series of events in the life of a Greek woman of the fourth century B.C. She tells the tale with clarity and verve and, along the way, she teaches the reader a vast amount about Athenian society in the most interesting and entertaining way." Donald Kagan, Yale University

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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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