



## **Finding Persephone: Women's Rituals in the Ancient Mediterranean (Studies in Ancient Folklore and Popular Culture)**

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# Finding Persephone: Women's Rituals in the Ancient Mediterranean (Studies in Ancient Folklore and Popular Culture)

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Drawing upon the latest research in gender studies, history of religion, feminism, ritual theory, performance, anthropology, archaeology, and art history, *Finding Persephone* investigates the ways in which the religious lives and ritual practices of women in Greek and Roman antiquity helped shape their social and civic identity. Barred from participating in many public arenas, women asserted their presence by performing rituals at festivals and presiding over rites associated with life passages and healing. The essays in this lively and timely volume reveal the central place of women in the religious and ritual practices of the societies of the ancient Mediterranean. Readers interested in religion, women's studies, and classical antiquity will find a unique exploration of the nature and character of women's autonomy within the religious sphere and a full account of women's agency in the public domain.

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