



The Gods of Olympus: A History

By Graziosi, Barbara.

Metropolitan. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of *Inventing Homer* and *Homer in the Twentieth Century*, classics professor Barbara Graziosi here offers an elegant and entertaining account of the evolution of Greek gods across the millennia, from antiquity to the Renaissance and into the present day. Even in antiquity, the gods of Olympus were said to be cruel, oversexed, mad, or just plain silly. Yet for all their foibles and flaws, they proved to be tough survivors, far outlasting classical Greece itself. In Egypt, the Olympian gods claimed to have given birth to pharaohs; in Rome, they led respectable citizens into orgiastic rituals of drink and sex. Under Christianity and Islam they survived as demons, allegories, and planets; and in the Renaissance, they triumphantly emerged as ambassadors of a new, secular belief in humanity. In her lively, original history, Graziosi traces the wanderings of these protean deities through a wide range of literary and archaeological sources, opening a new window on the ancient world, religion, and mythology and its lasting influence. "Graziosi's knowledge is obvious, and easy to trust. Her writing is accessible and entertaining, her passion for her subject obvious; *The Gods of Olympus* will equally thrill...



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