

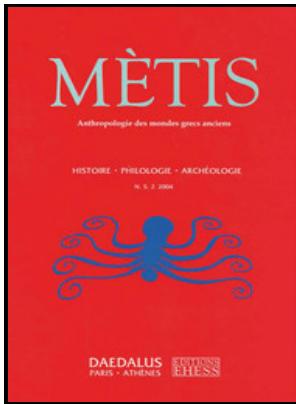
Anxiety veiled - Euripides and the traffic in women

Cornell University Press - 1994.11.02, Rabinowitz, Anxiety Veiled (I)

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- Mythology, Greek, in literature.
- Euripides -- Characters -- Women.
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[Anxiety Veiled by Sorkin, Rabinowitz](#)

Nancy

Rabinowitz is a sophisticated critic; she is very conscious of these epistemological traps, even if she does not always escape them in constructing her arguments. Women are ultimately pawns of men and male interests.

Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz, Anxiety Veiled: Euripides and the Traffic in Women

Whatever ironies we may detect in the work of that most famous ironist, Euripides, whatever complications and dilemmas arise in the interaction between the sexes, whatever social and political critique may be embedded in the plays all acknowledged by R. This said, I worry that R. The heterosexual rape of Phaedra is after all a fiction; the truth of the tale is the dominant-submissive violence of incest repressed between father and son.

Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz, Anxiety Veiled: Euripides and the Traffic in Women

If we find nothing but male oppression and female victimage, why indeed read them? The strong older woman, especially the hag figure Hekabe or Alkmene in the Heracleidae or the demonic e. Others have outlined the uses of tragedy to educate male citizens in the city and have taken cognizance of its institutional significance in shaping and being shaped by the cultural and political life of Athens.

1994.11.03, Rabinowitz, Anxiety Veiled (II)

For this reason I have attempted to participate honestly in R. What should we make of the prominence of female characters in the plays of Euripides? Is our mental and emotional world the same after having passed through the experience of a Euripidean drama? She turns to work by Vernant and Foley to make a further analogy between sacrifice and marriage as comparable forms of exchange. .

Anxiety Veiled by Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz

It is one thing to take as a given that women are given by men to men in marriage in a law of exchange that reduces women, in a legal sense, to

objects.

Anxiety Veiled : Euripides and the Traffic in Women by Nancy S. Rabinowitz (1993, Trade Paperback) for sale online

For example, it is not clear, in her final and excellent analysis of Kreousa in the Ion, whether any male could have written a different play. Psychoanalytic theory speculates that the infant, denied the milk of the mother either because he is biting and hurting her or because another child has come along to take his place , responds with aggressive fantasies of destroying her but justifies his own hostility by imagining that she is harming him. On the other hand, all too often, I think, feminist scholarship at least, in classics has been insulated from meaningful critique by those who work in the field or who are sympathetic to its aims. While these others are mentioned in passing in the notes, often for a brief demurral, it is odd that there is no real framing discussion at the outset that would situate R.

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She is overvalued as an object of adulation but also reassuring to men, since she is coopted into supporting a masculine code of behavior.

1994.11.03, Rabinowitz, Anxiety Veiled (II)

Not, Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz concludes, that he was either a misogynist or a feminist before his time. What should we make of the prominence of female characters in the plays of Euripides? Weiner 1992 Inalienable Possessions U. In the end, however, it seemed to this reviewer that R.

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