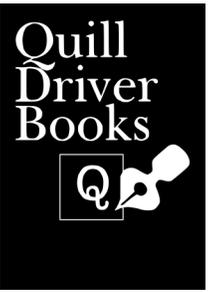


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The new book from Dr. Ruth Westheimer, *Myths of Love*, is a smart and sexy look at ancient mythology

For the ancient Greeks and Romans, love was sweet, but it was also irrational, cruel, and often deadly. Faced with this terrible paradox, classical civilization produced some of the most psychologically insightful myths of all time — stories of classic archetypes such as Narcissus, Helen of Troy, and Venus and Adonis.

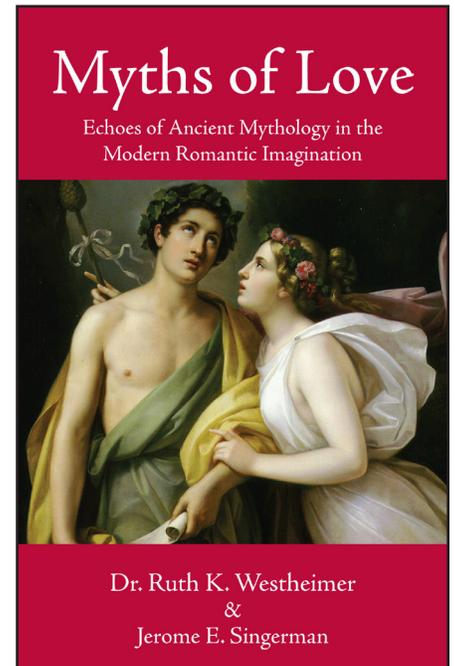
Dr. Ruth Westheimer, America's favorite sex therapist, analyzes these ancient myths and their relevance to 21st century relationships in her new book *Myths of Love: Echoes of Ancient Mythology in the Modern Romantic Imagination* (Quill Driver Books, June 2014).

Dr. Ruth and her co-author, classical scholar Jerome E. Singerman, insightfully examine the underlying psychology of the ancient myths and explain why their universal appeal has shaped the imagination of Western civilization for millennia. *Myths of Love* traces how these myths have endured in literature and art across the centuries and how they still influence how we think about sex and relationships today.

Dr. Ruth's and Singerman's joined expertise bridges literature, art, science, culture and practical experience to present a totally fresh approach to age-old problems of love and relationships that still trouble people today. The book's distinctive synthesis of ancient and modern viewpoints gives readers a complex and nuanced understanding of timeless issues surrounding sexuality.

Surveying a vast range of Greek and Roman literature from Homer to Ovid, *Myths of Love* retells and reconsiders the full gamut of human sexual experience, from the tenderest expressions of married love to the savage, self-destructive passions of narcissism and jealousy.

Written in an erudite but approachable style, *Myths of Love* is a delightful introduction to classical



mythology, showing how the ancients grappled with modern dilemmas such as gender identity, female sexual pleasure, and intellectual equality between the sexes. *Myths of Love* gives readers an expert guided tour through the immortal stories of Greek and Roman mythology, making seemingly remote figures of gods, goddesses and heroes feel familiar, human and fallible.

Myths of Love also shows how ancient myth can inspire fresh thinking about love and romance today. From Freud onward, psychologists and therapists have mined ancient myth for clues about the unconscious motivations that drive desire. Dr. Ruth uses her deep clinical experience to relate the psychological insights of the ancients to modern relationship dilemmas.

Myths of Love presents immortal characters from mythology such as:

—**Tiresias:** Cursed by the goddess Hera to experience life as both a woman and a man, Tiresias was called upon by the gods to settle an otherwise unsolvable question — which gender enjoys sex more?

—**Pygmalion:** Another myth we think we know has an unfamiliarly modern twist. The sculptor Pygmalion successfully entreats the gods to give his statue life — but before the happy ending, Pygmalion sleeps with the statue in his bed. Did he just invent the sex doll?

—**Iphis and Ianthe:** Iphis, a girl raised as a boy, falls in love with the maiden Ianthe. Is this love lesbian or transgender? The lovers' happiness hangs in the balance until a miraculous sex-changing intervention by the goddess Isis.

—Plus many other ancient stories, both famous and obscure, that illuminate the oddities, pains and joys of sexual desire.

A stimulating blend of art, science, ancient religion, and the passions and contradictions of the human heart, *Myths of Love* is a smart and sexy revisit to the roots of Western culture's eternal fascination with love.

Book Details:

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