Greek comedy flourished in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE, both in and beyond Athens. Aristophanes and Menander are the best-known writers whose work is in part extant, but many other dramatists are known from surviving fragments of their plays. This sophisticated yet accessible introduction explores the genre as a whole, integrating literary questions (such as characterization, dramatic technique or diction) with contextual ones (for example, audience response, festival context, interface with ritual or political frames). In addition, it also discusses relevant historical issues (political, socio-economic and legal) as well as the artistic and archaeological evidence. The result provides a unique panorama of this challenging area of Greek literature which will be of help to students at all levels and from a variety of disciplines but which will also provide stimulus for further research.

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To the memory of Colin Austin and Kathryn Bosher
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This volume is dedicated, with great sadness, to the memory of two late colleagues, Colin Austin and Kathryn Bosher, in grateful recognition of the contributions they have made to the study of Greek comedy.