

THE ROMAN WEDDING

The wedding ritual of the ancient Romans provides a crucial key to understanding their remarkable civilization. The intriguing ceremony represented the starting point of a Roman family, as well as a Roman girl's transition to womanhood. This work is the first book-length examination of Roman wedding ritual. Drawing on literary, legal, historical, antiquarian, and artistic evidence of Roman nuptials from the end of the Republic through the early Empire (ca. 200 BCE to 200 CE), Karen Hersch shows how the Roman wedding expressed the ideals and norms of an ancient people. Her book is an invaluable tool for social historians interested in how ideas of gender, law, religion, and tradition are interwoven into the wedding ceremony of every culture.

Karen K. Hersch, Assistant Professor of Classics, has been a member of the Department of Greek and Roman Classics at Temple University since 2001. Awarded an Arthur Ross Pre-doctoral Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome for the academic year 2000–2001, she earned her PhD from Rutgers University in 2002. Her recent articles include “Ethnicity and the Costume of the Roman Bride” in Edward Herring and Kathryn Lomas (eds.), *Gender Identities in Italy in the First Millennium BC* (2009) and “*Violentilla Victa*” in *Arethusa* (2007).

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Ritual and Meaning in Antiquity

Karen K. Hersch

Temple University



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For Michael

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