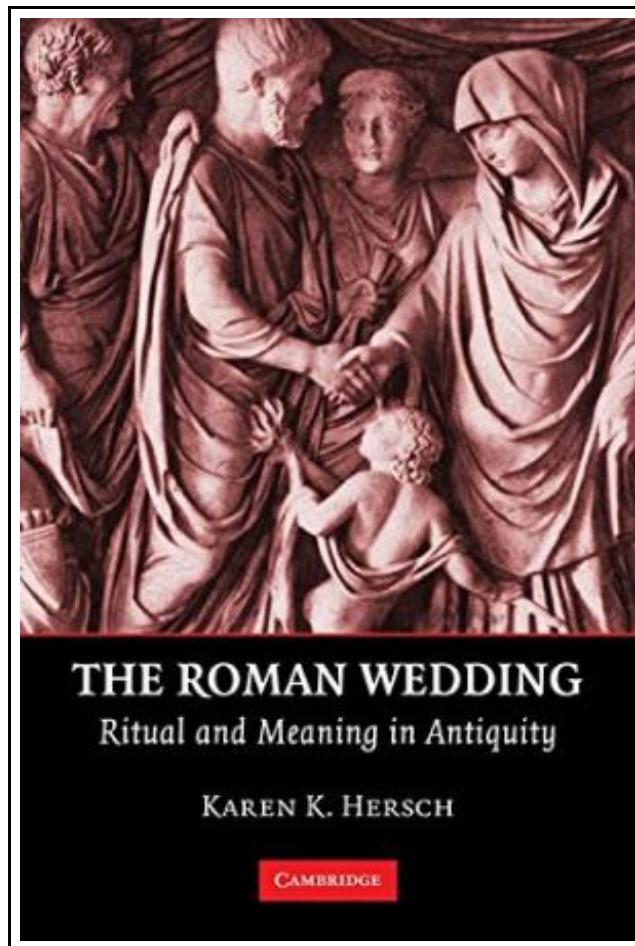


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Book Condition: New. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (.), 2010. XII,341,(6)p. Paperback. 'Hersch presents us with a modern, up-to-date study of the Roman wedding which is almost exclusively based on literary sources, since the primary artistic source, biographical Roman sarcophagi, do not show an actual moment from the ceremony per se, but figures from a wedding. The wide-ranging nature of these literary sources and the problems of using them to reconstruct the Roman wedding, along with a review of the modern scholarship on the Roman wedding and an outline of the chapters of the book, form the core of the book's Introduction. The former includes the fact that because there is no single complete description of a true Roman wedding, we are forced to reconstruct the ceremony from a pastiche of sources ranging in type, date and locale in the Roman world, and that different levels of society held different versions of the ceremony. Chapter 1 focuses on the laws connected with marriage and the wedding. (.) The next chapter focuses on the bride, primarily her preparations for the ceremony and the preparatory rites for when she is lead to the groom's house (domum deductio). A study of the garments comprising the bride's costume forms the heart of the chapter. (.) The third chapter opens by considering the groom to whom the ancient sources pay far less attention than the bride. The bulk of the chapter examines the various elements of the main ritual of the wedding, the procession to the groom's house. (.) The gods and priestesses associated with the wedding are the subject of chapter four. Many gods were necessary for a Roman wedding, and the author reviews the evidence thoroughly for each. Most prominent in the literary and artistic sources are Venus, Cupid, Concordia, and Hymenaeus.(.) The final...

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