

## Title Information

# Myths of Love

**Echoes of Ancient Mythology in the  
Modern Romantic Imagination**

**by Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer and  
Jerome E. Singerman**

**Publication Date: June 2014**

\$16.95 (\$17.95 Canada) • Trade Paperback • 5½" x 8½" • 160 pages

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Folklore & Mythology / Human Sexuality

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Dr. Ruth Westheimer, America's favorite sex therapist, analyzes ancient myth and its relevance to 21st century relationships in her new book *Myths of Love: Echoes of Greek and Roman Mythology in the Modern Romantic Imagination*. For the ancient Greeks and Romans, love was

sweet, but it was also irrational, cruel, and often deadly. Faced with the terrible paradox of love, 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 and 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.

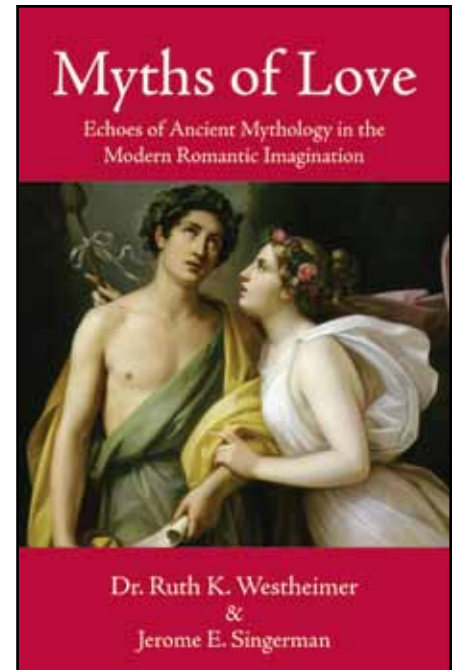
Surveying a vast range of Greek and Roman literature from Homer to Ovid, *Myths of Love* retells and reconsiders the full gamut of human sexual experience, from the tenderest expressions of married love to the savage, self-destructive passions of narcissism and jealousy. *Myths of Love* is a delightful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

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.

**Audience:** Popular history and culture readers, relationships and sexuality readers, classical literature students.

**About the Authors:** **Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer** is one of America's best-known names in relationship therapy, giving help to millions through radio, television, newspapers, magazines, books and her website, DrRuth.com.

**Jerome E. Singerman** is a book editor who lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He holds a doctorate in comparative literature from Harvard University and is the author of *Under the Clouds of Poesy*.



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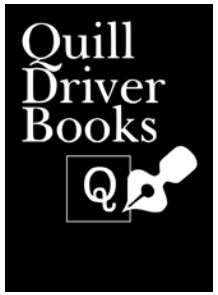
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Contact: Jaguar Bennett, Marketing Director  
Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com

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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.

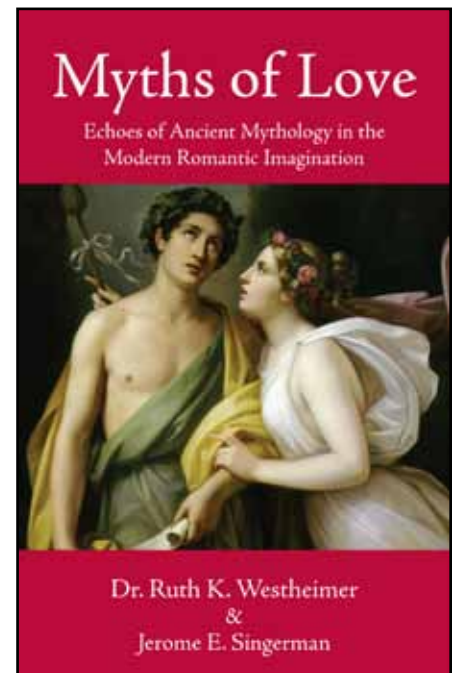
Dr. Ruth Westheimer, America's favorite sex therapist, analyzes these ancient myths and their relevance to 21st century relationships in her new book *Myths of Love: Echoes of Ancient Mythology in the Modern Romantic Imagination* (Quill Driver Books, June 2014).

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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# About Dr. Ruth Westheimer

## Co-Author of *Myths of Love*



**Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer** is one of America's best-known names in relationship therapy. Widely known for her honest and humane approach to human sexuality, Westheimer pioneered frank sex advice on radio with her program *Sexually Speaking*, which premiered in 1980 on WYNY in New York. Since then Westheimer has become America's favorite sex expert, giving help to millions through radio, television, newspapers, magazines, books and her website, **DrRuth.com**.

Born in Germany in 1928, Westheimer was sent to an orphanage in Switzerland at age 10 to escape the Holocaust. At 17 she immigrated to Israel, where she fought as a scout and sniper for the Haganah. She was seriously wounded in 1948 during the Israeli War of Independence.

In 1950, Westheimer moved to France, where she studied psychology at the Sorbonne. In 1956, she immigrated to the United States. Westheimer received a master's degree in sociology from the New School for Social Research and a doctorate of education from Columbia University, and studied human sexuality under Dr. Helen Singer Kaplan at New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center.

Dr. Westheimer has taught at New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center, Lehman College, Brooklyn College, Adelphi University, Columbia University and West Point. She is currently an adjunct professor at New York University and a fellow of Calhoun College at Yale, Butler College at Princeton and the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Westheimer has her own private practice in New York and lectures worldwide. She is the author of over 35 books, including *Dr. Ruth's Sex After 50* (Quill Driver Books, 2005) and *Dr. Ruth's Guide for the Alzheimer's Caregiver* (Quill Driver Books, 2012).



For more information on *Myths of Love* (Quill Driver Books, June 2014) or to arrange an interview with authors **Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer** and **Jerome E. Singerman**, please contact Jaguar Bennett at Quill Driver Books, (800) 345-4447, [Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com](mailto:Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com).

# About Jerome E. Singerman

## Co-Author of *Myths of Love*



**Jerome E. Singerman** earned his B.A. at Wesleyan University, where he studied English and Classics, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard University, where he focused on the afterlife of classical literature in medieval and Renaissance Europe. He has taught literature at Harvard University, Bates College, and the Maryland Institute College of Art and is a frequent speaker on scholarly publishing at colleges, universities, and academic conferences across the country. He is the author of one monograph, *Under Clouds of Poesy: Poetry and Truth in French and English Reworkings of the Aeneid, 1160-1513* (1985); more recently, his articles on museums

and art have appeared in *Antiques* magazine. A longtime book editor, he is the recipient of the 2014 Robert L. Kindrick–CARA Award of the Medieval Academy of America for Outstanding Service to Medieval Studies, the only publisher ever to have been so recognized.

Singerman lives in a century-old house in Philadelphia with his wife, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania.



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