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Von Plato

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Von Plato : Symposium (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Symposium (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Socrates on the Nature of Love, Over DrinksVon Quintus RexThis is perhaps the most enjoyable of Plato's dialogues, and one

of the most enduring. Plato imagines his mentor Socrates, the comic playwright Aristophanes, and other Athenian luminaries of the Golden Age met for a dinner party and a night of discussion on the nature of love. The various guests present their positions in manners ranging from thoughtful to hilarious, but all of this is but an appetizer for the main course: Socrates' concept of Eros as the fuel for the soul's ascent to the Divine, as revealed in Socrates' reminiscence of his own mentor, Diotima, the woman of Mantinea. At the end, a drunken Alcibiades breaks in upon the festivities to reveal Socrates as an avatar of the very divine Eros which he praises. Robin Waterfield's Oxford translation is one of the best. He captures each speaker's individual idiom, a major translational feat in itself. That he is able to do so and also render the text into lucid modern English is a further coup. The Oxford edition also includes an extensive introduction, very helpful notes, and a complete bibliography. The Symposium is great philosophy, great literature, an intimate peek at the social life of one of western civilization's formative eras, a work of spiritual inspiration and transformation, and, not least, a wonderful read. Most highly recommended!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Cut Your Teeth On This One Von Captain Cook A special mood is induced by reading Plato, the product of an elite society whose ideal was leisurely contemplation. Indeed, it is an activity that seems to clash at every point with our own unreflective society whose thought currency is minted in soundbites and advertising slogans. People are not encouraged to be philosophical nowadays, so it is mainly the resort of the antisocial and the willfully eccentric who are in this way enabled to look down on the 'crude, vulgar masses.' Who, reading a book of Plato's, hasn't felt something of this pleasure? If there is one book by Plato that can be considered to have a more mainstream appeal then it must surely be "The Symposium." The subject of love is of interest to us all and worthy of investigation as behind this word, perhaps the most overstretched in our language, there are so many possible meanings. With this book we are able to eavesdrop on an after dinner party conversation by some truly great minds. As always, Plato is happy to present more than one view. Of course, the shocking point for the mainstream modern reader is that most of the discussion concerns homosexual love, nevertheless much of what is said can also be applied to many heterosexual situations. Among the participants presented with perhaps some semblance to their original characters, are the great Athenian comic playwright, Aristophanes, and, towards the end, the party is enlivened by the arrival of the controversial Alcibiades, possibly the most brilliant statesman and soldier of his generation. It is through him and his confession of attempted seduction that we learn a great many details about Plato's mentor, Socrates. The translator, Christopher Gill, succeeds in presenting the chain of argument in a clear, lucid style, further supplemented by a fine, lengthy introduction and copious notes for those unfamiliar with late fifth century BC Greece.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It gets better with age Von Maginot The Symposium is a treatise of love, but it is hardly a romantic or idealistic work. Instead, it is metaphysical and transcendent in nature. This book may offend many people because it contains frank homosexual references. If you don't like homosexuality, your best bet is to consider that this book is about the universal quality of love regardless of who loves whom. In other words, substitute "boy love" for "love of the opposite sex" if you need to. In Plato's narrative, Socrates describes the evolution of his ability to love. In the beginning, Socrates is interested in boy love. He gradually begins to love beautiful boys and then loves beauty itself. Ultimately, he comes to love "the beautiful" which is a sublime aspect of beauty that defies description. Essentially, Socrates begins with a form of love that depends on his interaction with other individuals. His impulse become more intellectual in nature, but does not mature until it reaches a level of transcendence. In this sense, Socrates' development is comparable to other transcendent figures in the history of thought such as St. Augustine--who goes from lust for beautiful slave girls to worshipping God--or Prince Sidhartha Gotama, who shed his life of privilege to find and teach enlightenment. In my experience it is difficult for a young mind to come to terms with this kind of development. In our youth, we can appreciate it intellectually but must largely accept it on faith. As we age, however, our biological and spiritual imperatives do begin to change. So if any of you were stuck reading this work in college, I suggest you take a fresh look a few years later.

Kurzbeschreibung Space and Time are pleased to bring you this classic presented as a wonderfully presented edition with a fully interactive table of contents. The Symposium is a philosophical text by Plato dated c. 385-380 BC. It concerns itself at one level with the genesis, purpose and nature of love, and (in latter-day interpretations) is the origin of the concept of Platonic love. Love is examined in a sequence of speeches by men attending a symposium, or drinking party. Each man must deliver an encomium, a speech in praise of Love (Eros). The party takes place at the house of the tragedian Agathon in Athens. Socrates in his speech asserts that the highest purpose of love is to become a philosopher or, literally, a lover of wisdom. The dialogue has been used as a source by social historians seeking to throw light on life in ancient Athens, in particular upon sexual behavior, and the symposium as an institution. The Symposium is written as a dramatic dialogue, a form used by Plato in more than thirty works and, according to Walter Hamilton, it is his most perfect one. It is set in the Athenian social life, in which develops its content about the subject of love and Socrates' character. There is little doubt that the content of the dialogue is fictitious, although Plato has built a very realistic atmosphere.

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wonderfully presented edition with a fully interactive table of contents. The Symposium is a philosophical text by Plato dated c. 385/380 BC. It concerns itself at one level with the genesis, purpose and nature of love, and (in latter-day interpretations) is the origin of the concept of Platonic love. Love is examined in a sequence of speeches by men attending a symposium, or drinking party. Each man must deliver an encomium, a speech in praise of Love (Eros). The party takes place at the house of the tragedian Agathon in Athens. Socrates in his speech asserts that the highest purpose of love is to become a philosopher or, literally, a lover of wisdom. The dialogue has been used as a source by social historians seeking to throw light on life in ancient Athens, in particular upon sexual behavior, and the symposium as an institution. The Symposium is written as a dramatic dialogue, a form used by Plato in more than thirty works and, according to Walter Hamilton, it is his most perfect one. It is set in the Athenian social life, in which develops its content about the subject of love and Socrates' character. There is little doubt that the content of the dialogue is fictitious, although Plato has built a very realistic atmosphere. Synopsis Plato (428/427 BC -- 348/347 BC), was a Classical Greek philosopher, mathematician, writer of philosophical dialogues, and founder of the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in the western world.