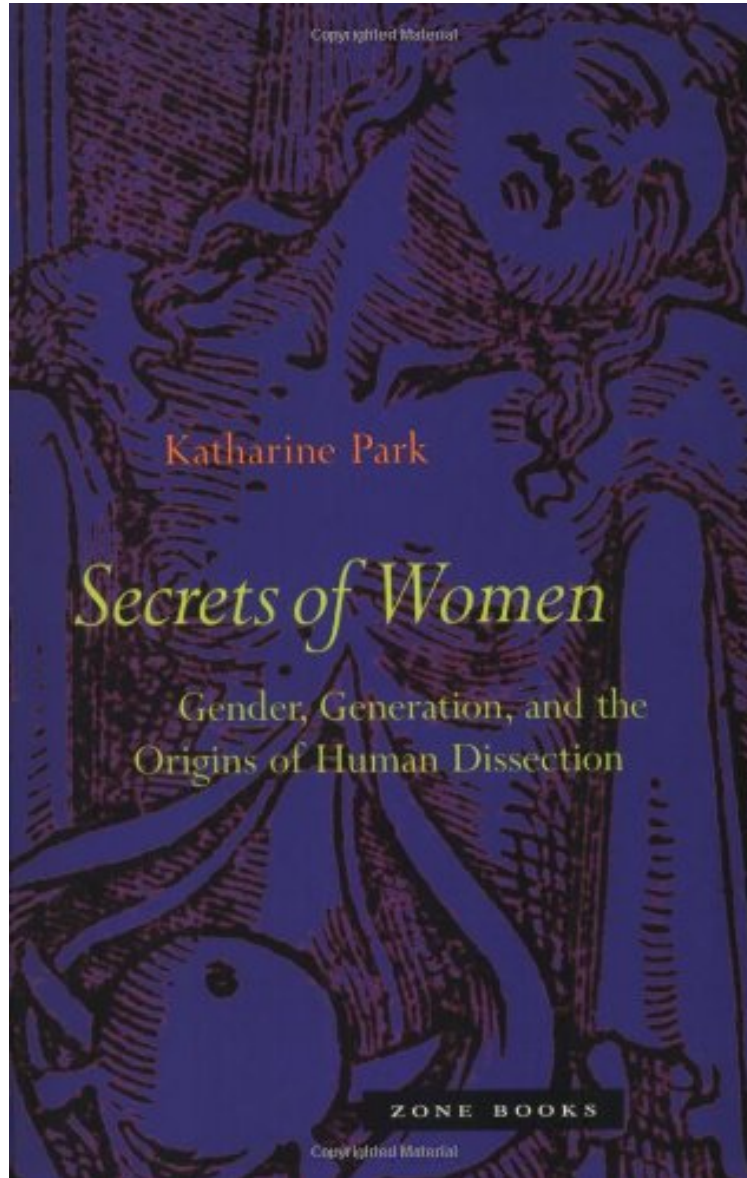


(Download pdf) Secrets Of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection

Secrets Of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection

Katharine Park

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#869683 in Books Zone Books 2010-03-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.25 x 6.001, 1.45 #File Name: 1890951684424 pages | File size: 47.Mb

Katharine Park : Secrets Of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets Of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended by my advisorBy Kindle CustomerUsing this as part of my research for my thesis. Recommended by my advisor. This is scholarly, indeed, when the chapters end at 259 but the footnotes, resources, and other documentation make this book over 400 pages!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EXCELLENT!!By SaraI love this book! The shipping was VERY fast and the book is in excellent condition! It is REALLY like new!! It also was VERY cheap and it was hardcover! A very GREAT BUY!!!

Women's bodies and the study of anatomy in Italy between the late thirteenth and the mid-sixteenth centuries. Toward the end of the Middle Ages, medical writers and philosophers began to devote increasing attention to what they called "women's secrets," by which they meant female sexuality and generation. At the same time, Italian physicians and surgeons began to open human bodies in order to study their functions and the illnesses that afflicted them, culminating in the great illustrated anatomical treatise of Andreas Vesalius in 1543. Katharine Park traces these two closely related developments through a series of case studies of women whose bodies were dissected after their deaths: an abbess, a lactating virgin, several patrician wives and mothers, and an executed criminal. Drawing on a variety of texts and images, she explores the history of women's bodies in Italy between the late thirteenth and the mid-sixteenth centuries in the context of family identity, religious observance, and women's health care. *Secrets of Women* explodes the myth that medieval religious prohibitions hindered the practice of human dissection in medieval and Renaissance Italy, arguing that female bodies, real and imagined, played a central role in the history of anatomy during that time. The opened corpses of holy women revealed sacred objects, while the opened corpses of wives and mothers yielded crucial information about where babies came from and about the forces that shaped their vulnerable flesh. In the process, what male writers knew as the "secrets of women" came to symbolize the most difficult challenges posed by human bodies-- challenges that dissection promised to overcome. Park's study of women's bodies and men's attempts to know them--and through these efforts to know their own--demonstrates the centrality of gender to the development of early modern anatomy.

Park's book will undoubtedly prove to be an important contribution to the history of anatomy. For the first time, it extensively discusses the history of anatomy from the viewpoint of the corpse and, because of its particular focus on women's bodies, it will radically change the way we think about the (male) history of the anatomized body. (Nature) Park's meticulously documented book is medical historiography at its best.... [Park] has shed light on a notion--'the secrets of women'--that should have long ago been recognized as deserving far more attention than has been paid to it. (Sherwin B. Nuland *The New Republic*) About the Author Katharine Park's book *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (Zone Books, 1998), coauthored with Lorraine Daston, won the Pfizer Prize for the best book in the history of science. She is Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University.