

The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History

By Emma L. E. Rees

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From *South Park* to Kathy Acker, from Lars Von Trier to *Sex and the City*, women's sexual organs are demonized. In *The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History*, Emma L.E. Rees investigates the evolution of this demonization: she considers how writers, artists and filmmakers contend with the dilemma of he vagina's puzzling 'covert visibility' and how the 'c-word' is an obscenity that both legitimates and perpetuates the fractured identities of women globally.

In our postmodern, porn-obsessed culture, vaginas appear to be everywhere, literally or symbolically but, crucially, they are as silenced as they are objectified. Even common slang terms for the vagina can be seen as an attempt to divert attention away from the reality of women's lived sexual experiences: slang offers a convenient distraction from something taboo. *The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History* is an important contribution to the ongoing debate in understanding the feminine identity.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Don’t be fooled by the playful pink cover—this book is not for the faint of heart. Ranging from Indian folktales of vagina dentata to the surprising popularity of vaginas in postmodern art, Rees’ book is a whirlwind tour of the literary and cultural history of the treatment (and mistreatment) of female genitalia. Helpful parenthetical asides define the more esoteric academic language. However, the casual reader may be discouraged by the overwhelmingly dense nature of the information that is presented, with regrettably minimal analysis. Still, the excellent citations and quality of the information offered will appeal to scholarly readers. Best for academic libraries. --Rebecca Hayes

Review
“The Vagina is exactly what it purports to be: a literary and cultural history of impressive breadth and frequently rewarding depth…. The Vagina remains an informative and considered book: it is a resource, and a source of power. A polyphonic mixture of high and low, it will engage the feminist philosopher at home with Kristeva, as well as those comparably new to these ideas. The Vagina is not, to borrow a term from Laurie Penny, the ‘feminism-as-spectacle’ that Wolf and many others who court the mainstream gaze are so keen to offer us; rather it is feminist writing of the best kind, that which comes from genuine engagement and real political concern.” ?Jane Cleasby, Review31

About the Author

Emma L.E. Rees is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Chester, UK.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mae Saari:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Morgan Lytle:

The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based

confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial pondering.

Nicholas Williams:

Reading a book for being new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to go through a book. When you learn a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History offer you a new experience in reading through a book.

Robert Knight:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for you is The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how do the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

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