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Doctors and midwives; Nurses and tutors; Hairdressers and perfumers; Treasurers; Vizier; Women and the court; Women deputizing for their husbands; Women and the temple; Servants of the God; Henut; God's Wife of Amun and Divine Adoratrice; Priestess singers and Meret; The Chantress; Singers in the 'interior'; Khener and dancing; Women and funerals; The role of music and dance; Impersonating Hathor; 6 Sexuality, art and religion; Sexuality and the erotic; Sexual identity; The creative power of the male; Homosexuality; Androgyny Were the Egyptians prudes?Ostraca and the Turin Papyrus; High art and coded messages; Tattoos, sex and dancing girls; Day beds and public celebration of sexuality; The erotic body; Love poetry; Women and rebirth; The power of the erotic; 7 Queens and harems; Queenship; Symbols of queenship; The queen as Hathor; Divine birth; Incest and the heiress theory; Royal polygamy; The 'harem' of Mentuhotep II; Institutions of women in the New Kingdom: ipet-nesw and per-khener; Medinet-Gurob (Mi-wer); Royal children; Diplomatic marriages; 'Harem plots'; The harem plot of Rameses III; Female kings Ahmes Nefertari (Ahmes/Ahmose Nefertari) (c.1570-1506 BC) Hatshepsut (c.1470-1458 BC); Nefertiti (c.1390-1340 BC); Cleopatra VII (c.69-31 BC); Egyptian attitudes to women in power; 8 Goddesses; Nut; Neith; Isis and Nephthys; Hathor; Drunkenness; The Return of the Distant One; Conclusion; Glossary; A; B; C; D; E; F; H; I; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; U; V; W; Notes; Bibliography; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z

Sommario/riassunto

The fragmentary evidence allows us only tantalising glimpses of the sophisticated and complex society of the ancient Egyptians, but the Greek historian Herodotus believed that the Egyptians had 'reversed the ordinary practices of mankind' in treating their women better than any of the other civilizations of the ancient world . Carolyn Graves-Brown draws on funerary remains, tomb paintings, architecture and textual evidence to explore all aspects of women in Egypt from goddesses and queens to women as the 'vessels of creation'. Perhaps surprisingly the most common career for women, after housew
