

Desiring bodies: Ovidian romance and the cult
of form.

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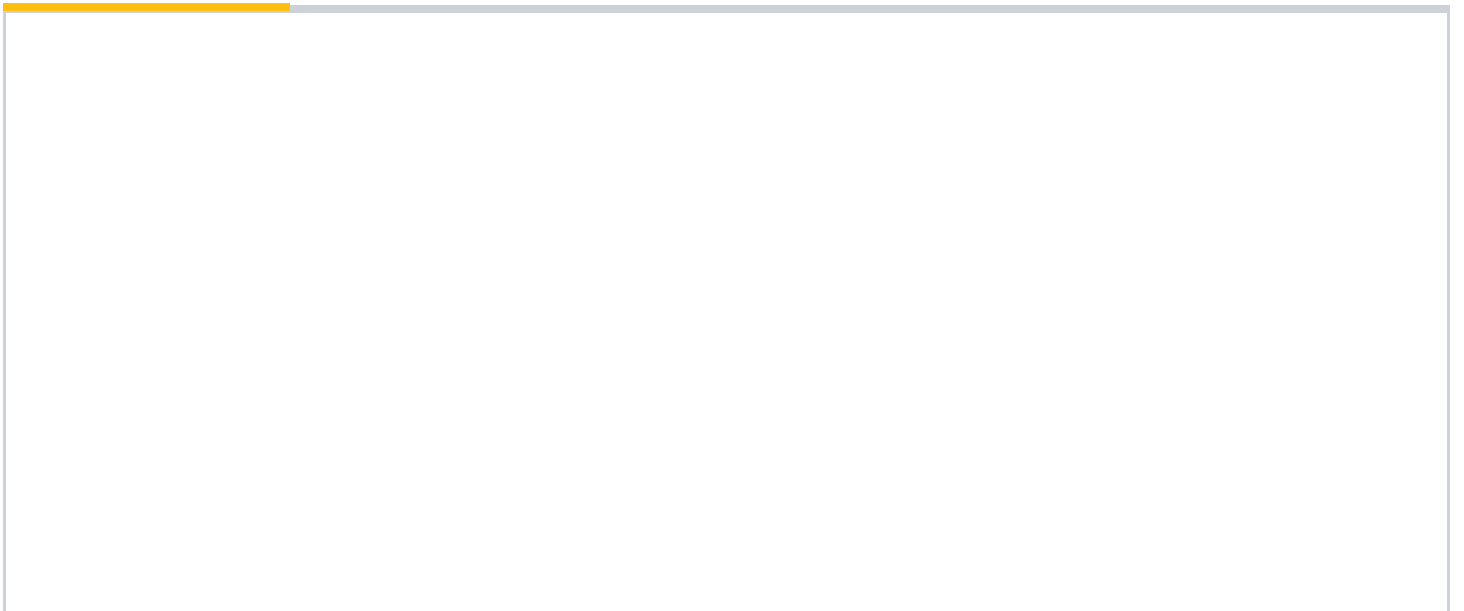
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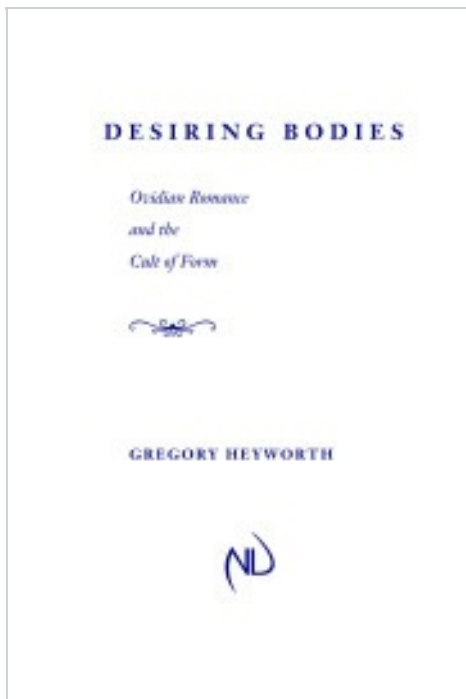


Desiring Bodies: Ovidian Romance and the Cult of Form



In this Book





Desiring Bodies: Ovidian Romance and the Cult of Form

Gregory Heyworth

2009

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SUMMARY

Gregory Heyworth's *Desiring Bodies* considers the physical body and its relationship to poetic and corporate bodies in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Beginning in the odd contest between body and form in the first sentence of Ovid's protean *Metamorphoses*, Heyworth identifies these concepts as structuring principles of civic and poetic unity and pursues their consequences as refracted through a series of romances, some typical of the genre, some problematically so. Bodies, in Ovidian romance, are the objects of human desire to possess, to recover, to form, or to violate. Part 1 examines this desire as both a literal and socio-political phenomenon through readings of Marie de France's *Lais*, Chrétien de Troyes' *Cligès* and *Perceval*, and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, texts variously expressing social, economic, and political culture in romance. In part 2, Heyworth is concerned with missing or absent bodies



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