



Apuleius' Metamorphoses: A Study in Roman Fiction

Stefan Tilg

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This volume reveals how Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* - the only fully extant Roman novel and a classic of world literature - works as a piece of literature, exploring its poetics and the way in which questions of production and reception are reflected in its text. Providing a roughly linear reading of key passages, the volume develops an original idea of Apuleius as an ambitious writer led by the literary tradition, rhetoric, and Platonism, and argues that he created what we could call a seriocomic 'philosophical novel' *avant la lettre*. The author focuses, in particular, on the ways in which Apuleius drew attention to his achievement and introduced the Greek *ass* story to Roman literature. Thus, the volume also sheds new light on the forms and the literary and intellectual potential of the genre of the ancient novel.

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