

# Delve into the Intellectual Depths of Philosophy: Symposium by Plato (Hackett Classics)



Plato's *Symposium* is a philosophical masterpiece that explores the enigmatic nature of love, beauty, and the pursuit of wisdom. This Hackett

Classics edition presents a rigorous and insightful translation that has earned widespread acclaim and serves as a valuable resource for scholars, students, and general readers alike.



## Symposium (Hackett Classics) by Plato

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 875 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 116 pages



### Unveiling the Essence of Love

*Symposium* is a collection of speeches delivered by a renowned group of philosophers and thinkers at a banquet held in ancient Athens. Each speaker offers a unique perspective on the nature of love. Phaedrus extols the virtues of physical beauty and its power to inspire love. Pausanias emphasizes the role of reciprocity and virtuous behavior in true love. Eryximachus presents a medical view of love as a force that governs the body and mind.

Aristophanes offers a humorous and imaginative myth that attributes the origin of love to the division of the sexes and the longing for reunification. Agathon, the poet, praises love as the embodiment of all goodness and beauty. Finally, Socrates, Plato's mentor, delivers the climactic speech that redefines the concept of love as a journey towards wisdom and the divine.

## **Exploring the Philosophical Depths**

Through these diverse perspectives, *Symposium* examines the complexities of love in its many forms. Plato's dialogue delves into the relationship between love and desire, the search for fulfillment, and the pursuit of higher knowledge. It questions the boundaries of human experience and the nature of reality itself.

The Hackett Classics edition of *Symposium* provides extensive annotations and commentary that illuminate the philosophical intricacies of the text. It offers insights into the historical context, cultural background, and philosophical underpinnings of Plato's work. This rich supplementary material enhances the reader's understanding and deepens their engagement with the text.

## **Insightful Translation and Commentary**

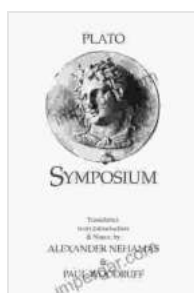
Gregory Vlastos, the translator, has crafted a lucid and precise translation that captures the essence of Plato's original Greek. Vlastos's expertise in ancient philosophy shines through in his meticulous attention to detail and his ability to convey the nuances of Plato's thought. The translation is accompanied by detailed notes and a comprehensive index that provide invaluable guidance to the reader.

Vlastos's commentary offers a wealth of insights into Plato's philosophy, historical context, and the philosophical debates that shaped his work. He examines the evolution of Plato's thought on love and explores the ways in which *Symposium* reflects Plato's broader philosophical system. The commentary is accessible to both scholars and general readers, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding the text.

## A Journey into the Realm of Ideas

Plato's *Symposium* is not merely a work of philosophy; it is an invitation to embark on a journey into the realm of ideas. It challenges readers to question their assumptions about love, beauty, and the nature of human existence. Through its captivating dialogues and insightful commentary, the Hackett Classics edition offers a transformative experience that will resonate with readers long after they have finished the book.

Whether you are a seasoned philosopher, a student seeking enlightenment, or a general reader curious about the fundamental questions of life, *Symposium by Plato (Hackett Classics)* is an essential addition to your bookshelf. It is a timeless masterpiece that will continue to inspire and provoke thought for generations to come.

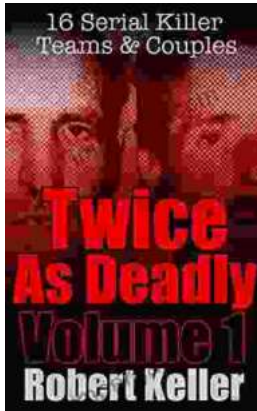


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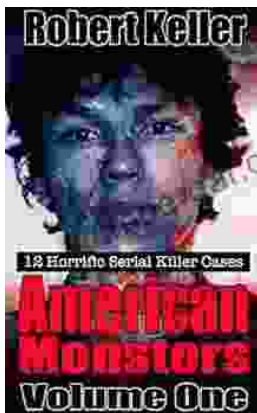
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