

Scheer, T. S. (2018) “Women and Nostoi”, in S. Hornblower, and G. Biffis, G. (eds) *The Returning Hero: Nostoi and Traditions of Mediterranean Settlement*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 123-45.

The article aims to show how gender stereotypes shape the plot of Greek mythological narratives. Greek homecoming tales (Nostoi), which seem to focus almost exclusively on male protagonists, are analysed from the perspective of the heroines involved. These females’ significance and function for the narratives are reassessed: as (un)faithful wives, coveted and rebellious prisoners of war and as exotic seductresses abroad, they play a decisive role in the success or failure of the male hero’s happy homecoming. At the same time, however, the homecoming stories also reflect the expectations of the respective audiences regarding positive or negative masculinity and femininity, as well as divergent gender-specific interests in real Greek society.