

**Levin-Richardson, S. (2019) *The Brothel of Pompeii: Sex, Class and Gender at the Margins of Roman Society*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.**

This monograph is the first complete scholarly assessment of Pompeii's 'purpose-built' brothel, providing unparalleled insights into the organization of sexual labor and the experiences of prostitutes and clients. Building from close analysis of all of the material evidence (architecture, archaeological finds, graffiti, and frescoes), the book suggests that exploitation permeated deeper into the daily lives and psyches of the prostitutes than previously realized, requiring them to perform emotional labor in addition to sexual labor. Nevertheless, prostitutes could employ multiple strategies for expressing their subjectivity and agency, skillfully using the tools available to them—including the rhetoric of wall writing—to resist and reframe the narratives of their exploitation.