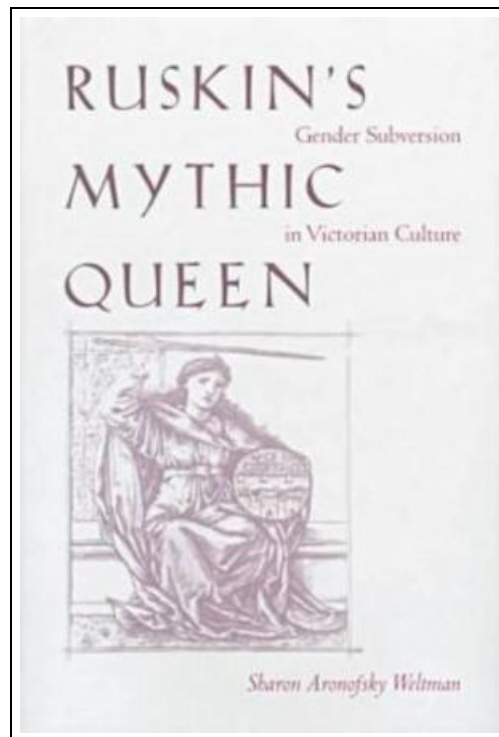


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(Malcolm Block)

RUSKIN S MYTHIC QUEEN: GENDER SUBVERSION IN VICTORIAN CULTURE (HARDBACK)



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Ohio University Press, United States, 1999. Hardback. Condition: New. 1. Language: English . Brand New Book. John Ruskin s prominence as the author of *Of Queen s Gardens*, his principal statement of Victorian gender opposition, makes him an ideal example for analyzing the power of mythic discourse to undermine gender division. Here, Ruskin creates a vision of feminine authority that draws simultaneously upon several sources (including the goddess Athena and Queen Victoria herself) to empower women in a worldwide arena redefined as a broader version of their domestic realm. In Ruskin s effort to promote women s expanded sphere of action, his mythmaking goes further than he anticipates: Ruskin feminizes both metaphor and language, and finally destabilizes the very notion of gender. *Ruskin s Mythic Queen* demonstrates that Victorian authors and artists used myth to challenge their culture s rigid gender dichotomy. While Ruskin is usually seen as the most articulate advocate of nineteenth-century England s sharply differentiated gender roles, Sharon Weltman shows that his mythopoetic prose yields many tools to break down fixed categories of gender. This exciting revision of Ruskin situates him within a tradition of nineteenth- and twentieth-century myth, metaphor, and gender theorists, arguing for his significance as an example of how mythic discourse disrupts gender dichotomy even among those writers who seek to establish it.



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