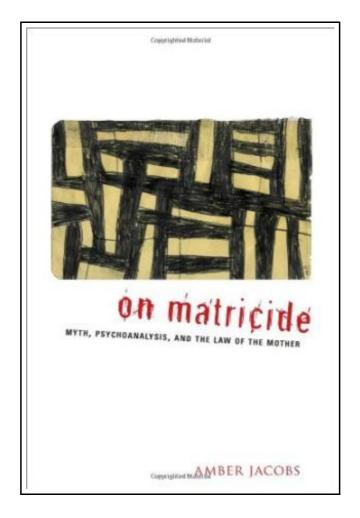
On Matricide: Myth, Psychoanalysis, and the Law of the Mother (Hardback)



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ON MATRICIDE: MYTH, PSYCHOANALYSIS, AND THE LAW OF THE MOTHER (HARDBACK)



Columbia University Press, United States, 2007. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 226 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Despite advances in feminism, the law of the father remains the dominant model of Western psychological and cultural analysis, and the law of the mother continues to exist as an underdeveloped and marginal concept. In her radical rereading of the Greek myth, Oresteia, Amber Jacobs hopes to rectify the occlusion of the mother and reinforce her role as an active agent in the laws that determine and reinforce our cultural organization. According to Greek myth, Metis, Athena s mother, was Zeus s first wife. Zeus swallowed Metis to prevent her from bearing children who would overthrow him. Nevertheless, Metis bore Zeus a child-Athena-who sprang forth fully formed from his head. In Aeschylus s Oresteia, Athena s motherless status functions as a crucial justification for absolving Orestes of the crime of matricide. In his defense of Orestes, Zeus argues that the father is more important than the mother, using Athena s motherless birth as an example. Conducting a close reading of critical works on Aeschylus s text, Jacobs reveals that psychoanalytic theorists have unwittingly reproduced the denial of Metis in their own critiques. This repression, which can be found in the work of Sigmund Freud and Melanie Klein as well as in the work of more contemporary theorists such as Andr Green and Luce Irigaray, has resulted in both an incomplete analysis of Oresteia and an inability to account for the fantasies and unconscious processes that fall outside the oedipal/patricidal paradigm. By bringing the story of Athena s mother, Metis, to the forefront, Jacobs challenges the primacy of the Oedipus myth in Western culture and psychoanalysis and introduces a bold new theory of matricide and maternal...

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