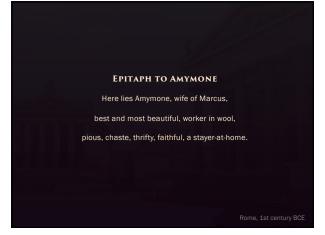






## EPITAPH TO CLAUDIA Friend, I have not much to say; stop and read it. This tomb, which is not fair, is for a fair woman. Her parents gave her the name Claudia. She loved her husband in her heart. She bore two sons, one of whom she left on earth, the other beneath it. She was pleasant to talk with, and she walked with grace. She kept the house and worked in wool. That is all. You may go.



FROM EURIPIDES, <u>MELANIPPE CAPTIVE</u>
"Women are better than men, as I will show
Women run households and protect within their homes what has been carried across the sea, and without a woman no home is clean or prosperous.
Consider their role in religion women prophesy the will of [Apollo] Loxias in the oracles of Phoebus
Why is it, then, that women must have a bad reputation?
There is nothing worse than a bad woman, and nothing better in any way than a good one, but their natures differ."
Fragment of a lost play, Athens, 5th century BCE

## FROM CARCINUS, SEMFLE. "'O Zeus, why need one say evil of women in detail? It would be enough if you merely said woman." Fragment of a lost play, Athens, 4th century BCE

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## Subjectivity Contemporary expectations of behavior Gender (men as well as women) Class City and nation Selectivity of evidence Point of view Survival Preservation Modern (anachronistic) interpretation Even perfectly preserved evidence is warped by Our own expectations Unwarranted extrapolation











