



Change Me: Stories of Sexual Transformation from Ovid

Jane Alison, Alison Keith

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Ovid's stories melt moral conventions, explore ambiguities, and dissolve boundaries between men, women, animals, gods, plants, and the mineral world; in doing so they contrive to seduce readers. Ovid's dark pleasure in telling such stories with a full register of tones is palpable. But the stories of sexual encounter in the *Metamorphoses* are also infused with deep questions. What does it mean to have thoughts and passions trapped inside a changeable body? What is a *self*, and where are its edges? If someone can pierce you in sex and in love, how do you survive? And if your outer form changes, what lasts?

In *Change Me*, Jane Alison, critically acclaimed author of *The Love-Artist*, renders substantial portions of Ovid's great epic into elegant and remarkably faithful English. Her focus is on episodes that involve desire, sexuality, and the transformations brought about by powerful emotion; because these themes are so central to the *Metamorphoses*, Alison introduces them with a selection of elegies from Ovid's *Amores*, the collection with which the poet launched his career. When these selections are taken together, Alison's Ovid comes alive; the Roman poet's great ability to perform contemporary themes through mythical subject matter, and vice versa, is Alison's guiding principle and Muse. *Change Me* will transform forever readers' experience of this most ingenious of poets.

FEATURES

The **thematically organized translations are lucid, apt, precise, and playful**

Elaine Fantham's **Foreword places Ovid in his Augustan context**

Alison Keith's **introduction offers an overview of gender and sexuality in the ancient world**

Incorporates **sixteen color plates** from classical antiquity that illustrate Ovidian themes

Audio recordings (read by Alison) of sixteen selected passages are available at www.oup.com/us/alison

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