

**A fresh cultural analysis of and invitation to reclaim
the female monsters from Greek mythology**

The folklore that has shaped our dominant culture teems with frightening female creatures. In our language, in our stories (many written by men), exists the idea that women who step out of bounds—who are angry or greedy or ambitious, who are overtly sexual or not sexy enough—aren't just outside the norm: they're unnatural—monstrous. But maybe, the traits we've been told make us dangerous and undesirable are actually our greatest strengths.

Through fresh analysis of eleven female monsters, including Medusa, the Furies, and the Sphinx, Jess Zimmerman takes us on an illuminating feminist journey through mythology. She guides women (and others) to reexamine their relationships with traits like hunger, anger, ugliness, and ambition, teaching listeners to embrace a new image of the female hero: one that looks a lot like a monster, with the agency and power to match.

Often women try to avoid the feeling of monstrosity, of being grotesquely alien, by tamping down those qualities that we're told fall outside the bounds of natural femininity. But monsters also get to do what other female characters—damsels, love interests, and even most heroines—do not. Monsters get to be complete, unrestrained, and larger than life. Today, women are becoming increasingly aware of the ways rules and socially constructed expectations have diminished us. After seeing where compliance gets us—harassed, shut out, and ruled by predators—women have never been more ready to become repellent, fearsome, and ravenous.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jess Zimmerman is the editor in chief of Electric Literature. Her essays, fiction, opinion pieces, and prose poetry have appeared in publications such as *Slate*, *The Cut*, *The Guardian*, *Catapult*, *Hazlitt*, and *The New Republic*. She lives in Brooklyn.



Running Time: Approx. 7 Hours • Unabridged

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WOMEN AND OTHER MONSTERS

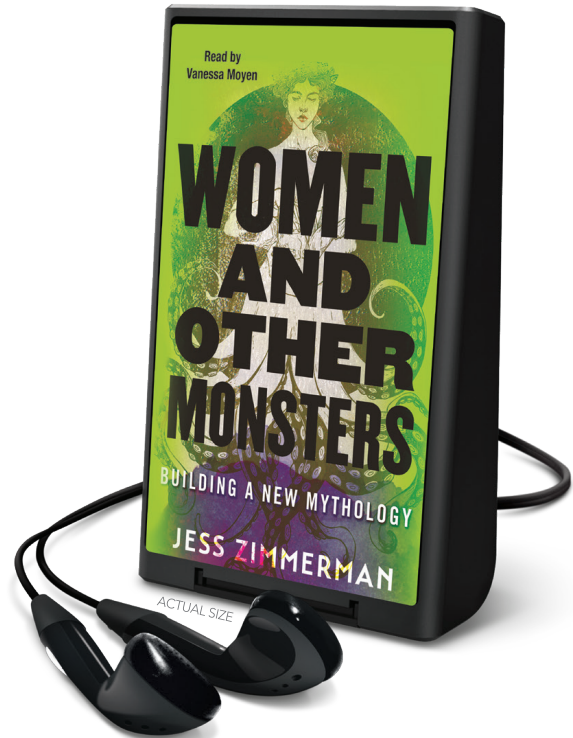
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