



# **Chastity As Autonomy: Women in the Stories of Apocryphal Acts (Studies in Women and Religion)**

*Virginia Burrus*

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## **Chastity As Autonomy: Women in the Stories of Apocryphal Acts (Studies in Women and Religion)**

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This is a serious interdisciplinary exploration of the role of women in the sub-literature of Christian Apocrypha. Concluding that the Apocryphal Acts originated among women as folk tales, the author of this study hypothesizes that their origins were literary, and that they are legends which present a fantasized alternative reality, providing a clue to the actual historical situations of women in the Greco-Roman world. Burrus contributes to the emergent consensus that the tales about chaste women in the Apocryphal Acts stem from circles of celibate women, and reflect their viewpoint. The exposition and historical interpretation of tales about seven women reveal many insights which support most of the author's major contentions, and help extract some feminist fragments from the androcentric tradition.

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