



Blue Mythologies: Reflections on a Colour

Carol Mavor

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The sea, the sky, the veins of your hands, the earth when photographed from space—blue sometimes seems to overwhelm all the other shades of our world in its all-encompassing presence.

The blues of *Blue Mythologies* include those present in the world's religions, eggs, science, slavery, gender, sex, art, the literary past, and contemporary film. Carol Mavor's engaging and elegiac readings in this beautifully illustrated book takes the reader from the blue of a newborn baby's eyes to Giotto's frescoes at Padua, and from the films of Derek Jarman and Krzysztof Kieślowski to the islands of Venice and Aran.

In each example Mavor unpicks meaning both above and below the surface of culture. In an echo of Roland Barthes' essays in *Mythologies*, blue is unleashed as our most familiar and most paradoxical color. At once historical, sociological, literary, and visual, *Blue Mythologies* gives us a fresh and contemplative look into the traditions, tales, and connotations of those somethings blue.

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