



# The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession

*Mary Keller*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession

*Mary Keller*

## **The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession** Mary Keller

Feminist theory and postcolonial theory share an interest in developing theoretical frameworks for describing and evaluating subjectivity comparatively, especially with regard to non-autonomous models of agency. As a historian of religions, Mary Keller uses the figure of the "possessed woman" to analyze a subject that is spoken-through rather than speaking and whose will is the will of the ancestor, deity or spirit that wields her to engage the question of agency in a culturally and historically comparative study that recognizes the prominent role possessed women play in their respective traditions.

Drawing from the fields of anthropology and comparative psychology, Keller brings the figure of the possessed woman into the heart of contemporary argument as an exemplary model that challenges many Western and feminist assumptions regarding agency. Proposing a new theoretical framework that re-orientes scholarship, Keller argues that the subject who is wielded or played, the hammer or the flute, exercises a paradoxical authority?"instrumental agency"?born of their radical receptivity: their power derives from the communities' assessment that they no longer exist as autonomous agents.

For Keller, the possessed woman is at once "hammer" and "flute," paradoxically powerful because she has become an instrument of the overpowering will of an ancestor, deity, or spirit. Keller applies the concept of instrumental agency to case studies, providing a new interpretation of each. She begins with contemporary possessions in Malaysia, where women in manufacturing plants were seized by spirits seeking to resacralize the territory. She next looks to wartime Zimbabwe, where female spirit mediums, the Nehanda mhondoro, declared the ancestors' will to fight against colonialism. Finally she provides an imaginative rereading of the performative power of possession by interpreting two plays, Euripides' *Bacchae* and S. Y. Ansky's *The Dybbuk*, which feature possessed women as central characters. This book can serve as an excellent introduction to postcolonial and feminist theory for graduate students, while grounding its theory in the analysis of regionally and historically specific moments of time that will be of interest to specialists. It also provides an argument for the evaluation of religious lives and their struggles for meaning and power in the contemporary landscape of critical theory.

 [Download The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spir ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession Mary Keller**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Gary Lane:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They have to answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need that The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession to read.

#### **Jeffery Whitley:**

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the name The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession suitable to you? Typically the book was written by famous writer in this era. The actual book untitled The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession is the main of several books in which everyone read now. This particular book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their thought in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this guide. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world on this book.

#### **Marylou Arroyo:**

The actual book The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession will bring someone to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

#### **Jason Bradley:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , if we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession.

**Download and Read Online The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession Mary Keller #51MPY0F9X3R**

## **Read The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller for online ebook**

The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller books to read online.

### **Online The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller ebook PDF download**

**The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller Doc**

**The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller Mobipocket**

**The Hammer and the Flute: Women, Power, and Spirit Possession by Mary Keller EPub**