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Revenge in Athens: From the Files of Lysias the Lawyer (Paperback)

By Rick Garnett

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Lysias was an actual Athenian lawyer whose professional life covered roughly the period from 403 to 380 BC. In that place and time, a lawyer was essentially a speechwriter who prepared or helped to prepare for his client an argument for presentation to a jury made up of a large number of adult males. Lysias was celebrated in antiquity as the best exponent of the plain style, adapting ordinary speech to rhetorical use, and for *ethopoeia*, the vivid portrayal of character. I can take no credit for the broad outlines of the story, as they are firmly rooted in two surviving speeches of Lysias, and other texts of established authenticity. My account of the main action derives primarily from the speech known as Lysias I or On the Murder of Eratosthenes (Appendix A). The treatment of Lysias and his family by the oligarchic tyrants known as the Thirty, and of his attempt to seek formal justice against a certain Eratosthenes, one of their number, is drawn from Lysias XII, Against Eratosthenes. It is not clear that the two Eratosthenes...



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