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The First Fossil Hunters: Dinosaurs, Mammoths, and Myth in Greek and Roman Times (Revised edition)

By Adrienne Mayor

Princeton University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The First Fossil Hunters: Dinosaurs, Mammoths, and Myth in Greek and Roman Times (Revised edition), Adrienne Mayor, Griffins, Cyclopes, Monsters, and Giants - these fabulous creatures of classical mythology continue to live in the modern imagination through the vivid accounts that have come down to us from the ancient Greeks and Romans. But what if these beings were more than merely fictions? What if monstrous creatures once roamed the earth in the very places where their legends first arose? This is the arresting and original thesis that Adrienne Mayor explores in "The First Fossil Hunters". Through careful research and meticulous documentation, she convincingly shows that many of the giants and monsters of myth did have a basis in fact - in the enormous bones of long-extinct species that were once abundant in the lands of the Greeks and Romans. As Mayor shows, the Greeks and Romans were well aware that a different breed of creatures once inhabited their lands. They frequently encountered the fossilized bones of these primeval beings, and they developed sophisticated concepts to explain the fossil evidence, concepts that were expressed in mythological stories. The legend of the gold-guarding...



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