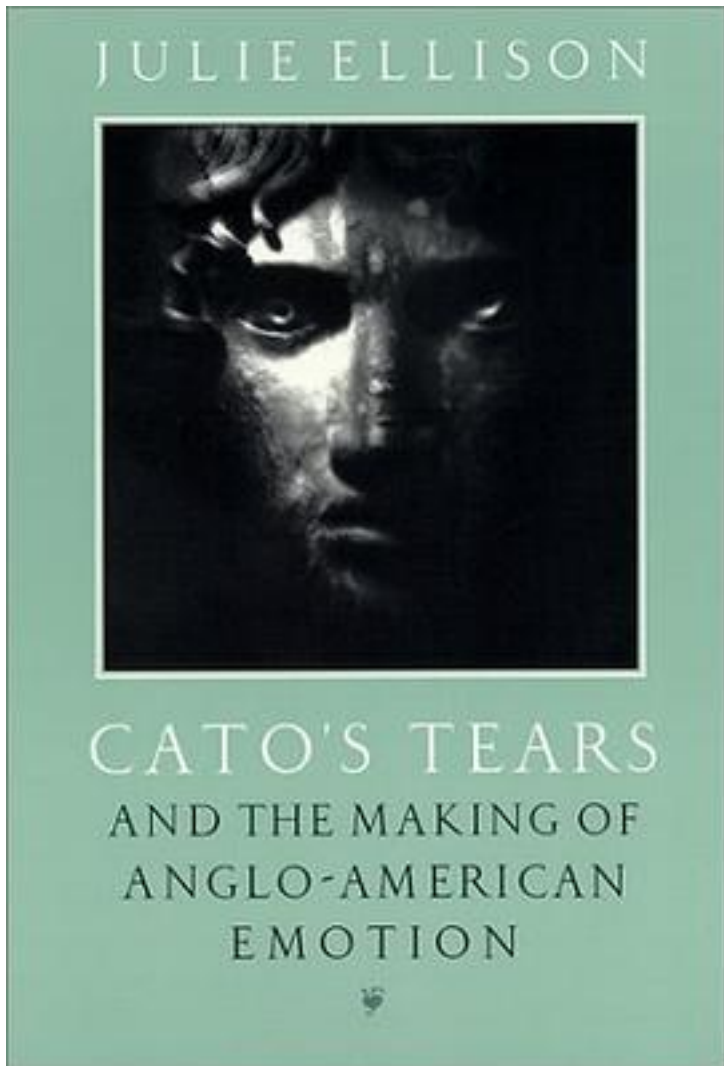


Cato's Tears and the Making of Anglo-American Emotion



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How did the public expression of feeling become central to political culture in England and the United States? In this revisionist account of a much expanded "Age of Sensibility", Julie Ellison traces the evolution of the politics of emotion on both sides of the Atlantic from the late-17th to the early-19th century. Early popular dramas of this time, Ellison shows, linked male stoicism with sentimentality through portrayals of stoic figures whose civic sacrifices bring other men to tears. Later works develop a different model of sensibility, drawing their objects of sympathy from other races and classes - Native Americans, African slaves and servants. Only by examining these texts in light of the complex masculine tradition of stoic sentimentality, Ellison argues, can one interpret women's roles in the culture of sensibility. In her conclusion, Ellison offers "a short history of liberal guilt," exploring the enduring link between male stoicism and male sensibility in political and cultural life from the late-17th century to the end of the 20th century.

作者介绍:

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