HILARY J. DEIGHTON  *A Day in the Life of Ancient Athens* (Bristol Classical Press, 1995); 88, 16 illus; ISBN 1 85399 137 6, £6-95.

This book aims 'to recreate a sense of what it was like to go about the business of everyday living in Classical Athens'—that is, 'the fifth and first two-thirds of the fourth centuries BC' (9). To do this, Deighton chooses to present her material in three substantial chapters: *Morning, Afternoon, Evening*. Although this arrangement provides an over-all coherence, and much of the information fits comfortably into this scheme, many details must be disposed by expedience. At what time of day does one properly discuss depilation or breaking wind? While Deighton freely acknowledges her ancient textual sources and their wide spread over time, some readers may feel a need for greater caution in applying non-Classical evidence to Classical Athens.

Deighton has a good range of interesting information, and she presents it with enthusiasm and humour. A reader who reads through to the end will indeed get a sense of everyday life in Classical Athens. But it is definitely a book to be read for background and not consulted for reference: there are no subheadings, no index, no detailed table of contents. Linda Hennessy's illustrations are useful and clear. There is a good list of ancient and modern authors for further reading.

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