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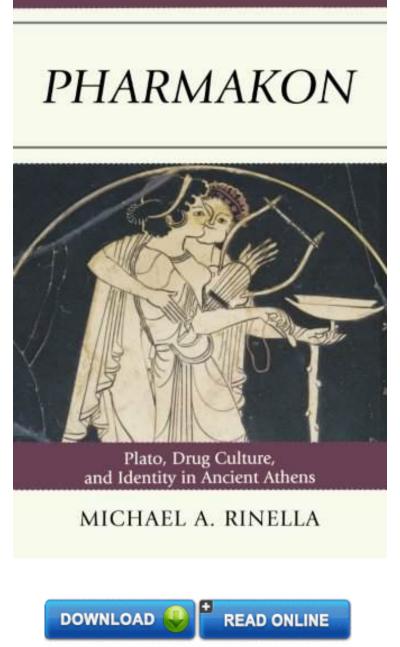
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informative book with thoroughly documented scholarly references and it ventures into an area that has been little explored but badly needs more coverage The book is too substantial it s daunting to review but reviews are needed such as describing what each chapter covers and what is significant Pharmakon traces the emergence of an ethical discourse in ancient Greece one centered on states of psychological ecstasy In the dialogues of Plato philosophy is itself characterized as a pharmakon one superior to a large number of rival occupations each of which laid claim to their powers being derived from connected with or likened to a pharmakon Accessible yet erudite Pharmakon is one of the most comprehensive examinations of the place of intoxicants in ancie Beginning from the most thorough review of classical intoxicants Rinella applies his findings in detail to many Platonic texts His results certainly have great significance for students of Plato but also for the history of medicine and of classical civiliza

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