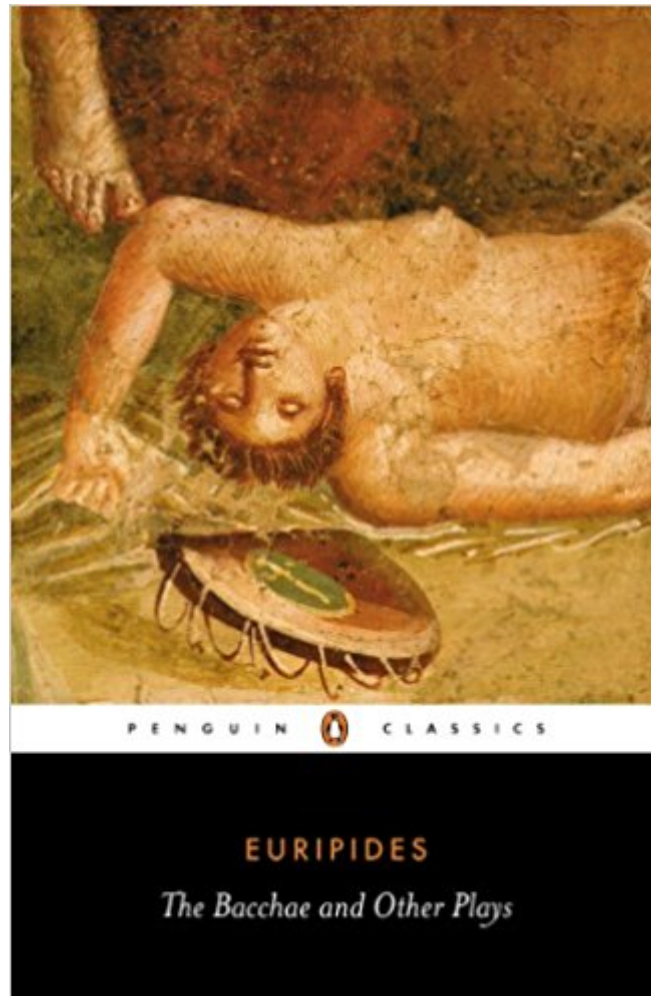




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The Bacchae And Other Plays (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The plays of Euripides have stimulated audiences since the fifth century BC. This volume, containing *Phoenician Women*, *Bacchae*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Orestes*, and *Rhesus* completes the new editions of Euripides in Penguin Classics. Features a general introduction, individual prefaces to each play, chronology, notes, bibliography, and glossary

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Greek (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Euripides (c.484-406 B.C.) was the most controversial of the three great Greek tragedians and the most modern. His major themes- religious scepticism, the injustices suffered by women and the destructive folly of war-are issues still vitally important today. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Euripides is one of the great playwrights of classical Greece and with this collection (in translation) you have his complete works - as far as they exist. I bought it because I am writing a series of poems based on Dionysus to accompany an exhibition by Mike Healey in Corfu early next year but you should buy this if you want to touch base with the ancient origins of great drama.

This collection of 4 plays by Euripides includes *Helen*, *The Women of Troy*, *Bacchae* and *Ion*. There is a common theme running through the plays - the roles of war and violence in human nature. The translation is very easy to read in common English, and the introduction is well written and gives the reader a good general overview of the 4 plays. *Ion* is a look at the role of faith in life, and the differences and difficulties in reconciling the reality of living with the demands of religion. *The Women of Troy* and *Helen* revolve around the Trojan War, and the horrors and absurdities that war causes mankind. Finally, *Bacchae* explores religious violence and the dangers of mass hysteria and group think. In all it is a very readable and very entertaining translation with messages understandable and applicable to modern man.

My friend was very happy with this book. She finished reading it in a few hours and said it was great and not difficult or confusing classics by other publishers.

A good collection of classic plays!

Rip off ebook/Kindle version only has *Bacchae* not *Helen* or *Women of Troy* the other plays the paperback has

I read Philip Vellacott's translation of *Bacchae* and *The Women of Troy* by Euripides for a Greek and Roman mythology course this summer. Having no previous experience with Greek plays, I found that these two plays have universal themes that still resonate down to our time. *Bacchae* was written around 406 B.C. when Euripides was approximately seventy years old. The play is a dramatization of Dionysus' return to his birthplace Thebes where he exacts revenge, because he is not given proper recognition as a divinity. The main themes include the superiority of the gods and the importance of appeasement and justice. Pentheus, the protagonist, represents human failing to respect the gods so that he, along with the rest of society, is guilty of hubris. The story also illustrates that a complete state of ecstasy can be sanctioned through Dionysiac worship as long as it is controlled by the god. There is also a patriarchal element that outlines the gender hierarchy within the divine and mortal societies of the Greeks. *The Women of Troy* highlights the trials and tribulations of three women who were most affected by the Trojan War. Andromache, Cassandra, and Helen all have stories of heartbreak to tell and Euripides tells their stories in a sympathetic fashion. This play was produced in 415 BC, and it was a part of a trilogy, but the other two plays have been lost. Historically, the play was performed after the massacre on the island of Melos when

the Athenians severely punished the inhabitants who wanted to withdraw from the League. Scholars have seen the play as a condemnation of the massacre set outside the walls of Troy. I enjoyed reading these plays, and when I have some free time I'd like to continue on and read *Ion* and *Helen* which are plays also found in this edition.

Vellacott's translations of Euripides are the greatest voice anyone has given Euripides... This last volume contains high voltage energy! The *Bacchae* is his masterpiece and the main attraction! The only thing about this edition is that Vellacott in the 1970's revised his original putting much of the text into verse, and taking out the original prose. I find the 1954 original much much better, it is more readable and exciting than his changes. You must however look in the copyright page (towards the front of the book) to find out which print is the original 1954 version of the plays, because Penguin has a dozen of subsequent re-prints that have exactly the same front cover! This may not matter to those starting out with Euripides but to me it is a big difference and enough for me to let you all know. Thanks

Included in this volume are two plays whose heroine are Iphigenia, the daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. One takes place before the Trojan War, and the other after her siblings Orestes and Electra had killed their mother. In the first, "*Iphigenia at Aulis*", she was to be sacrificed in order to appease Artemis and allow the Greek army to sail to Troy. The plot is the hard decisions the sons of Atreus, Clytemnestra, and Iphigenia herself had to make, to see if the sacrifice would be worth it. It is interesting that this also sheds a new perspective on the return of Agamemnon after the war, because Iphigenia told her mother not to be angry about it. Obviously, because the "*Iphigenia among the Taurians*" took place some eighteen years later, she didn't die, but I'll leave the conclusion a surprise. The second play takes place in a barbarian land, where Iphigenia is a priestess. Orestes, her brother, has come here in exile, and is to be sacrificed because he is Greek. After they recognize each other, they plan their escape, but will they make it? Read these plays to find out.

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