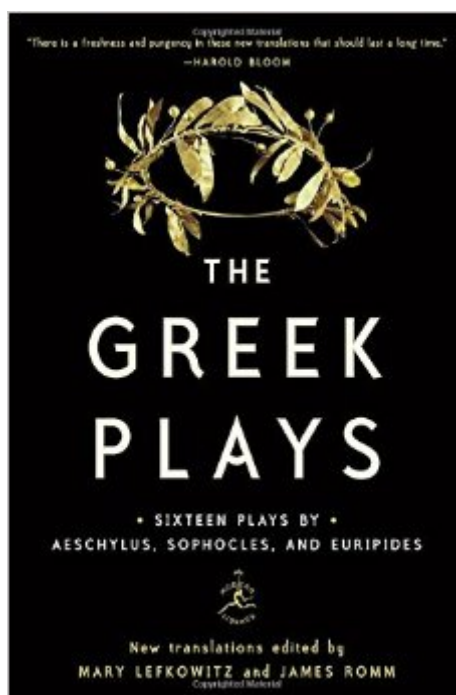


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# The Greek Plays: Sixteen Plays By Aeschylus, Sophocles, And Euripides (Modern Library Classics)



## Synopsis

A landmark anthology of the masterpieces of Greek drama, featuring all-new, highly accessible translations of some of the world's most beloved plays, including *Agamemnon*, *Prometheus Bound*, *Bacchae*, *Electra*, *Medea*, *Antigone*, and *Oedipus the King*. The great plays of Ancient Greece are among the most enduring and important legacies of the Western world. Not only is the influence of Greek drama palpable in everything from Shakespeare to modern television, the insights contained in Greek tragedy have shaped our perceptions of the nature of human life. Poets, philosophers, and politicians have long borrowed and adapted the ideas and language of Greek drama to help them make sense of their own times. This exciting curated anthology features a cross section of the most popular and most widely taught plays in the Greek canon. Fresh translations into contemporary English breathe new life into the texts while capturing, as faithfully as possible, their original meaning. This outstanding collection also offers short biographies of the playwrights, enlightening and clarifying introductions to the plays, and helpful annotations at the bottom of each page. Appendices by prominent classicists on such topics as "Greek Drama and Politics," "The Theater of Dionysus," and "Plato and Aristotle on Tragedy" give the reader a rich contextual background. A detailed time line of the dramas, as well as a list of adaptations of Greek drama to literature, stage, and film from the time of Seneca to the present, helps chart the history of Greek tragedy and illustrate its influence on our culture from the Roman Empire to the present day. With a veritable who's who of today's most renowned and distinguished classical translators, *The Greek Plays* is certain to be the definitive text for students, scholars, theatrical professionals, and general readers alike for years to come.

Advance praise for *The Greek Plays*: "Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm deftly have gathered strong new translations from Frank Nisetich, Sarah Ruden, Rachel Kitzinger, Emily Wilson, as well as from Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm themselves. There is a freshness and pungency in these new translations that should last a long time. I admire also the introductions to the plays and the biographies and annotations provided. Closing essays by five distinguished classicists: the brilliant Daniel Mendelsohn and the equally skilled David Rosenbloom, Joshua Billings, Mary-Kay Gamel, and Gregory Hays all enlightened me. This seems to me a helpful light into our gathering darkness." —Harold Bloom

"The reception of Ancient Greek theater is as lively as it's ever been in its 2,500-year history, both on the stage and on the page. Thanks to these sixteen brilliant new renditions by five leading scholar-translators, the three great Athenian masters of tragic drama, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, speak to us once again in powerfully contemporary accents on such fundamental issues as gender, religion, and democratic politics." —Paul

Cartledge, author *Democracy: A Life* — The Greek Plays is destined to become a perennial collection, essential reading for students, scholars, and lovers of Greek tragedy alike. This engaging compilation imbues all the ancient plays within its pages with new life by offering rich, informative historical, literary, and cultural context and fresh, accessible translations by some of the most talented classicists working in the field today. — Bryan Doerries, author of *The Theater of War: What Ancient Greek Tragedies Can Teach Us Today*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a beautifully rendered edition of some of the most entertaining and important works in Western literature. The layout of the book is elegant and easy to read, the footnotes are excellent and unobtrusive, the essays in the back are exceptionally helpful and informative. The brief introductions to the plays and playwrights provide important context, but it's all done with a light touch and no condescension towards non-academics. It's a huge improvement over the now outdated 60-year-old University of Chicago version, bringing these works into the 21st century and making them accessible to contemporary readers. This is a major achievement and I think this edition is now a must-have for any student, scholar, or general reader. I'd go so far as to say no home library today is really complete without it.

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