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Medea (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

This is the Medea we have been waiting for. It offers clarity without banality, eloquence without pretension, meter without doggerel, accuracy without clumsiness. No English Medea can ever be Euripides', but this is as close as anyone has come so far, and a good deal closer than I thought anyone would ever come. Arnson Svarlien has shown herself exceedingly skillful in making Euripides sound Euripidean.--David M. Schaps, Bryn Mawr Classical Review

Book Information

Series: Hackett Classics

Paperback: 104 pages

Publisher: Hackett Pub Co (March 21, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0872209237

ISBN-13: 978-0872209237

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,127 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Ancient & Classical #25 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Ancient & Classical #27 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Medieval

Customer Reviews

"Arnson Svarlien's translations ... remind me of why I love

Euripides." --Laurel Bowman, Department of Classics,

University of Victoria (added by author)"Decisively the best translation I have seen--it doesn't strain

for cheap effects." --Tom Tucker, Isothermal Community College (added by

author)"A translator who can write with genuine distinction ... with a rare sense of

rhythm." --Malcolm Heath, Greece and Rome

(added by author)"This is the Medea we have been waiting for. It offers clarity without banality,

eloquence without pretension, meter without doggerel, accuracy without clumsiness. No English

Medea can ever be Euripides', but this is as close as anyone has come so far, and a good deal

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Review"Fluid, lively, and accurate!" --Amy Vail, Department of Classics, Baylor University

Critical acclaim for the Arnson Svarlien & Mitchell-Boyask *Alcestis*, *Medea*, *Hippolytus*, also available from Hackett Publishing Company: "The excellent Introduction by Robin Mitchell-Boyask displays an admirable command of up-to-date scholarship and judiciously leaves controversial matters open to one's own interpretation. Arnson Svarlien's verse translation has both elegance and power--it reads well, not just to the eye, but (happily for the director and actors) also to the ear." -- Ian Storey, Department of Classics, Trent University "Mitchell-Boyask's Introduction gives the reader a lively and accessible overview of Euripides' life, the circumstances of the original performances, and critical debate on the three plays. Footnotes to the translations provide students with useful background without over-burdening the text. "The translations themselves are lively, vigorous, colorful, and direct, while remaining very close to the Greek; I laughed out loud more than once when I realized that, yes, this was exactly what Euripides had said. Arnson Svarlien has also taken care with the meter. Iambic trimeter, the 'spoken' meter of Greek, has been represented with iambic pentameter in English; but even in the lyric passages, whose meters do not translate into English, responsion within odes has been preserved. Yet all of this attention to such details of meter and accuracy sacrifices nothing in clarity or pace. Arnson Svarlien's translations are an ideal introduction to Euripides for students with no Greek and little knowledge of the ancient world. They remind me of why I love Euripides." - Laurel Bowman, Department of Classics, University of Victoria Diane Arnson Svarlien is Visiting Associate Professor of Classics, Georgetown College. Robin Mitchell-Boyask is Associate Professor of Classics, Temple University. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Far darker and more modern than I had expected. I can see why this play lives and remains famous long after more traditional plays of its times have become obscure. Far more realistic in some way than Shakespeare, honestly. The argument between Jason and Medea at the very end feels incredibly true to life; bitter recriminations, neither side listening to what the other has to say, leading to absolutely no resolution; no sense of justice whatsoever, either from society or the Gods, and no sense of any to come, either. I mean, Jason paid for what he did, granted, but there's no sense that justice really figures into it. Of course, this is all in translation, so of course it seems more modern in that sense than Elizabethan theater, but the story itself contains so much less poetry in its structure that it's honestly hard to believe that this piece is 2,000 years older than, say, *Hamlet*. Not, of course, that that's everything; *Hamlet* is a masterpiece, too, but one of a very different sort. My point

is more that there's considerably more to get out of at least this bit of Greek theater than you might think, if you've never read any...

Anyone with an eye on producing or directing this play should use this translation. It's edgy and modern, yet it retains the sense of the original.

thank yiu

Really cool book. Loved analyzing it in English Literature class.

exactly as described. great edition of the wonderful literary work.

The book came very quickly and is an easy read

I enjoyed the story very much, and it was nicely put together! Accurate!! I found myself reading more and writing notes for class in the margins. It may be an old story but it's definitely still intense!

The Kindle version was very good. Had the page numbers and hyperlinked footnotes. The tragedy itself was a very fun read, and the translation was done to be rich but accessible.

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