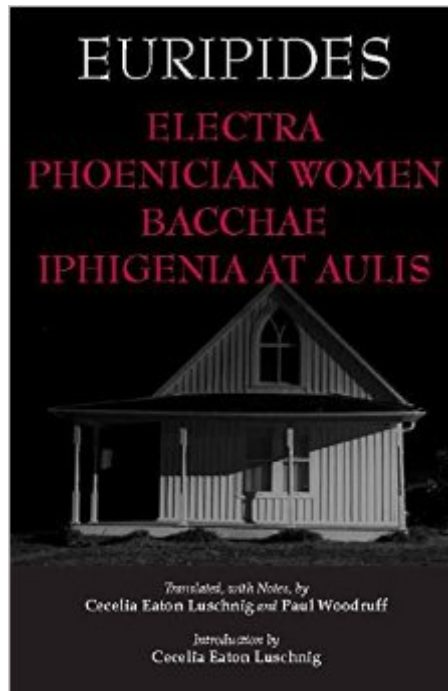


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Electra, Phoenician Women, Bacchae, And Iphigenia At Aulis (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

The four late plays of Euripides collected here, in beautifully crafted translations by Cecelia Eaton Luschnig and Paul Woodruff, offer a faithful and dynamic representation of the playwright's mature vision.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Iphigenia in Aulis" was the last play written by Euripides and represents his most cynical depiction of the great heroes of Greek mythology. The subject of the play is the sacrifice of Iphigenia, ordered by her father King Agamemnon, to appease the goddess Artemis, so that the Achaean fleet can have fair winds to sail to Troy and bring back Helen. Of course it will be ten long years before Agamemnon returns, to be murdered in his royal home by his wife Clytemnestra, who spent those long years of separation waiting for the day she could avenge her daughter's death. I have used "Iphigenia in Aulis" as part of a large unit on the Trojan War right before proceeding on to Homer's epic poem the "Iliad." Not only does the play come at that point in terms of the chronology of the war, but it clearly foreshadows the initial confrontation in the "Iliad" between Agamemnon and Achilles over Briseis of the lovely arms. To get his daughter to come to Aulis and be executed, Agamemnon says she is to marry Achilles. This lie not only makes Achilles angry when he learns about it, but the prospect of her daughter's marriage brings Clytemnestra to Aulis as well and foreshadows the tragedy "Agamemnon" by Aeschylus, the first part of the famed Orestia, as

well. But it is the contrast with Homer's epic that is most manifest here. Euripides invests the beginning of Homer's saga with painful irony as Agamemnon rejects the pleas of Briseis's father; after all, has the Achean leader really forgotten the pain of sacrificing his daughter ten years earlier? In Euripides's play it becomes clear that Agamemnon does not care for his daughter; she is but a bargaining chip in his ploy for power.

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