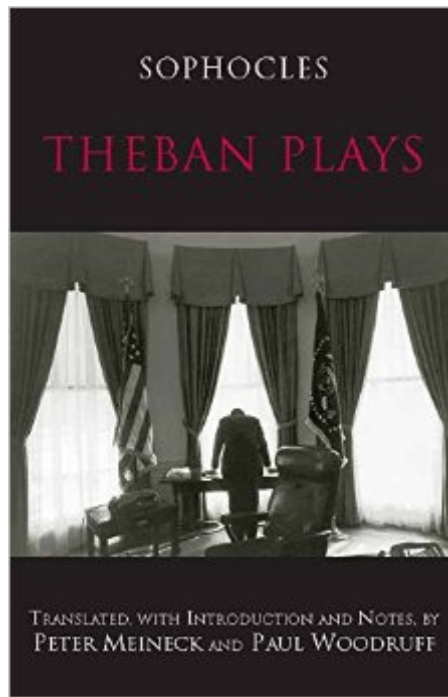


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Theban Plays (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

This volume offers the fruits of Peter Meineck and Paul Woodruff's dynamic collaboration on the plays of Sophocles' Theban cycle, presenting the translators' Oedipus Tyrannus (2000) along with Woodruff's Antigone (2001) and a muscular new Oedipus at Colonus by Meineck. Grippingly readable, all three translations combine fidelity to the Greek with concision, clarity, and powerful, hard-edged speech. Each play features foot-of-the-page notes, stage directions, and line numbers to the Greek. Woodruff's Introduction discusses the playwright, Athenian theatre and performance, the composition of the plays, and the plots and characters of each; it also offers thoughtful reflections on major critical interpretations of these plays.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After comparing numerous Theban Plays (Fagles, Lattimore, Roche, Fitzgerald and others) I came across the one on Hackett. I find it the most readable, contemporary, up-to-date, powerful, poetic and most importantly...believable. It reads so realistically that I actually believe what the characters say...which makes me want to perform and see performed this edition by Meineck and Woodruff. The print and spacing is perfect, and not to mention the price!

Really liked this selection of plays that I had to read for a political theory class. Lots of really cool ideas are represented like the all consuming ability of power and it's ability to destroy the people

who possess it. There's also references to the divine and prophesy that suggest that both an over-reliance on the divine and a sheer ignorance of the divine are recipes for untold disaster and misery. Concerning the study of politics, it suggests that man is subject to entities outside of his control and therefore is often quite fallible through advisors and his own overreaching pride to be greater than great and these failings prove to be a great undoing. Power proves a very intoxicating drug that corrupts even the greatest of men. As an added bonus to these great moral and political lessons, they're actually a pretty entertaining and moving read as Antigone seeks to give her brother a proper burial because she sees him as a hero, while the King views him a traitor. The sixty or so pages of Antigone take us through a sorted ride as every character is dealt with some tragic loss. God, how I wish Hollywood screenwriters could devise something this cool.

Never did I think it possible that Antigone could be so completely deprived of its poetry and drama. Meineck and Woodruff's translation and, what I assume, are its attempts at modernization make it nearly impossible to detect the political interests of the play and its insights into the conflict between the private and the public spheres.

AWESOME

The stories are great, Antigone being one my favorites of the three. Was required to buy this for a class, and well it brought some memories back from the first time I read them.

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