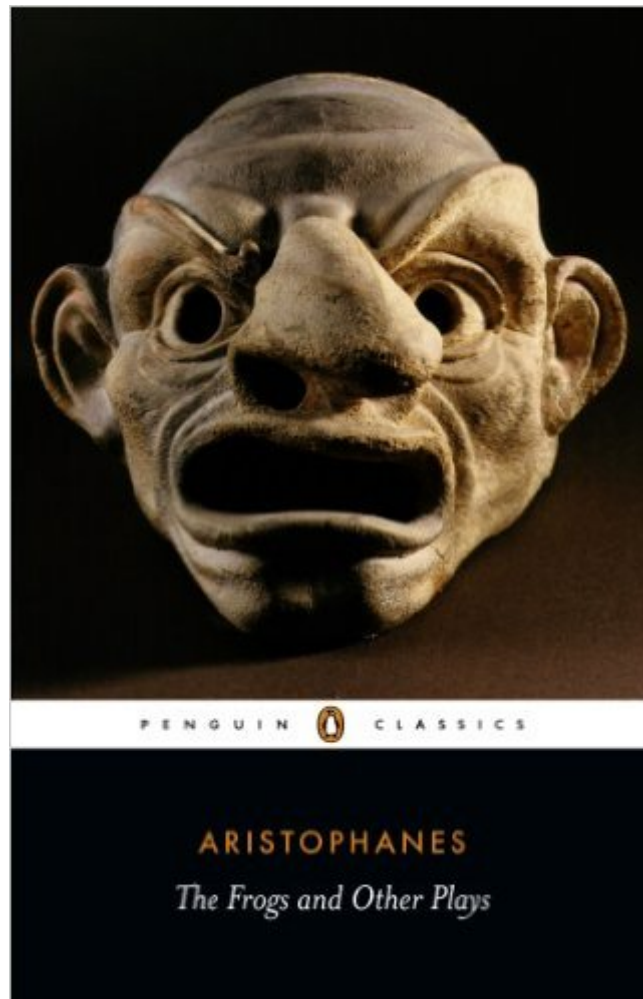


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Frogs And Other Plays (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Three plays from Aristophanes, the master of Ancient Greek comedy. Marrying deft social commentary to a rich, earthy comedy, the three comedies collected in Aristophanes' *The Frogs and Other Plays* offers a unique insight into one of the most turbulent periods in Ancient Greek history. The master of ancient Greek comic drama, Aristophanes combined slapstick, humour and cheerful vulgarity with acute political observations. In *The Frogs*, written during the Peloponnesian War, Dionysus descends to the Underworld to bring back a poet who can help Athens in its darkest hour, and stages a great debate to help him decide between the traditional wisdom of Aeschylus and the brilliant modernity of Euripides. The clash of generations and values is also the object of Aristophanes' satire in *Wasps*, in which an old-fashioned father and his loose-living son come to blows and end up in court. And in *Women at the Thesmophoria*, the famous Greek tragedian Euripides, accused of misogyny, persuades a relative to infiltrate an all-women festival to find out whether revenge is being plotted against him. Shomit Dutta's introduction discusses Aristophanes' life, the cultural context of his work and conventions of Greek comedy. This updated version of David Barrett's translation also includes extensive notes and a preface for each play. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Comedy is notoriously difficult to translate--not only do some cultures have entirely different senses of humor, the word-play and deft cultural allusions that make good comedy are often untranslatable. Against these odds, translator David Barrett has successfully brought Aristophanes into modern English with all his wit, sarcasm, and sly digs at well-known Greeks. The plays collected here--Frogs, Wasps, and Women at the Thesmophoria--are rendered so well that I was laughing all the way through. The translations are remarkably true to the originals and well foot-noted where the translator has diverged from the text, usually to make a joke an English-speaking reader would understand. Frogs and Other Plays is a fast, easy, and very funny read, well worth the time for anyone interested in ancient Greece, drama, or good old-fashioned comedy. Recommended.

First of all, I was surprised to find that the introduction to this Aristophanes collection was more lucid and readable than that before the "Birds" Collection, which is really meant to be the original volume. The editor, Shomit Dutta, did an excellent job of modernizing the Barrett translation and adding extensive end notes. Although, as usual, I find footnotes far more helpful, the work as a whole was so wonderful that I had to give it five stars. As with the first volume, this Penguin Classics collection presents plays which are easy to read and genuinely funny, especially for one who has just recently read Greek drama.

Frogs is an ancient Greek play as they all are, not simple straightforward, girl gets guy kind of plot. It is highly amusing but to understand the humor, some knowledge of ancient Greek playwrights and gods is necessary.

It's Aristophanes. Of course it's a classic.

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