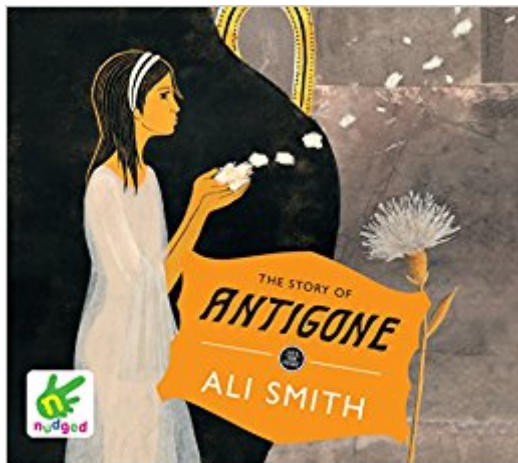


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The Story Of Antigone



Synopsis

The crow crossed the sky, slow-beating her wings. Beat, beat, beat. It was night, not yet morning, and her feathers were so black that she coasted the air invisible above the city wall." Thus begins Ali Smith's retelling of Sophocles' tragedy, about a young Theban princess who decides to bury her dishonoured brother Polynices, against King Creon's express orders with heart-breaking consequences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Ali Smith leans lightly on Sophocles in a beautiful version of Antigone' Observer'An amazing new series from Pushkin Books in which literary, adult authors retell classics (with terrific illustrations) for a younger generation... includes Ali Smith's lively reawakening of Antigone' Daily Telegraph'We love the new, illustrated retellings in the brilliant Save the Story range from Pushkin Press' TBK Magazine'Wonderfully tender... a stunning achievement, effortlessly highlighting the difficult conflicts and questions at the heart of the narrative... Paoletti's striking artwork completes the package beautifully' Teach First --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ali Smith was born in Inverness, where she was quite good at ice-skating and spent a lot of time on the back of a black Shetland pony called Hodrum. When she was about seven years old she began to write stories and poems. The first poem that she remembers writing was about a girl called Isabel debating with an adder, which was threatening to bite her, about which of them would live the longest (Isabel won). Laura Paoletti is a very young artist from Macerata, with a degree in painting. She paints, illustrates, photographs, collects birds' feathers. She has always had a mania for

drawing, and even as a child she did this on walls, on trousers, on hands and the face. Selected at Bologna in 2010 for the exhibition The Grammar of Figures, Antigone is the first book she has illustrated. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I wouldn't think that the tragedies of Sophocles would make interesting books for younger readers, but I was proven wrong. 'The Story of Antigone' by Ali Smith with illustrations by Laura Paoletti is a very good adaptation of the famous drama. The story starts on the battlefield in the aftermath of a terrible slaughter. Our narrator is a crow, which is morbid and a perfect choice as a witness to the events. Antigone wants to bury her vanquished brother, but King Creon, the victor, wants no such thing. What follows is a struggle between a headstrong king and a young woman who would stand up to him. The outcome is tragic, but the lesson of being willing to give your all for what you believe in rings true today. The illustrations are in earth tones and are quite good. It's a pretty dark story, but the narrator and a stray dog have a few moments to lighten things up. There is also a question and answer at the end between Crow and the adapter Ali. This is a very good adaptation for younger readers. I received a review copy of this ebook from Pushkin Press and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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