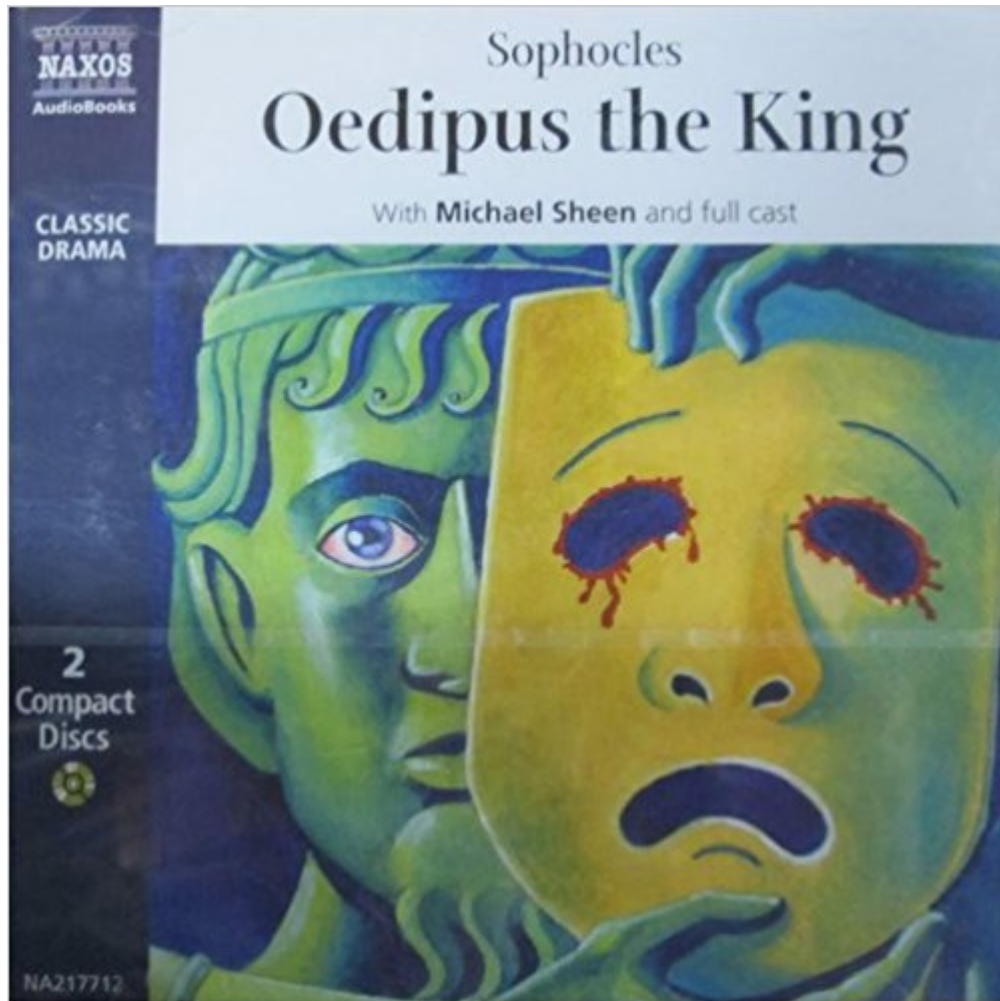




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Oedipus The King (Classic Drama)



Synopsis

The anguished tale of Oedipus, who having solved the riddle of the Sphinx, and become King of Thebes, gradually realizes the crimes he unwittingly committed, remains a drama of unremitting power 2,500 years after it was written.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 11 Up-This performance of Oedipus the King, the classic Greek tragedy by Sophocles, is dramatic and compelling. As in all works that are meant to be performed rather than read, the play takes on much more meaning and emotion when performed by these fine actors. The most riveting characterization is presented by Michael Sheen as Oedipus. He clearly portrays the brash confidence of the young king, the confusion and fear as the king begins to suspect what has happened and, finally, the total despair of the dethroned and outcast Oedipus. All the actors give fine performances that are easily understood and add to the overall drama and tragedy. The Greek chorus is especially effective as it comments on the course of events. Sound effects and music are used sparingly and very effectively. Those using the cassette version will find that there is no notification when each side has ended. Since many high school classes read this work, this excellent audio version would be a valuable resource in school and public libraries. Pat Griffith, Schlow Memorial Library, State College, PA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Daring and experimental....An arresting reassessment of an acclaimed masterpiece."--Bernard

Knox, The New York Times Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This Oxford translation of "Oedipus the King" is a collaboration between Stephen Berg, a poet, and Diskin Clay, a classicist. It offers excellent commentary, including an interpretive introduction, notes explaining obscurities, an appendix on Greek drama, and a glossary. The translation itself, however, is quite different: the dialogue is given in short, clipped sentences, and the choruses in unpunctuated free verse. Here is Berg's version of the choral lyric from "Oedipus" : "just now / from high snowy Parnassus / the god's voice exploded its blazing message / follow his track find the man / no one knows / a bull loose under wild bushes and trees / among caves and gray rocks" (p. 45). Berg's explanation for this style is that he wants to reproduce the effect of "broken song," and indeed this broken syntax looks much like the Greek on the page. This approach, however, sometimes sacrifices definition and intelligibility -- as in this passage, especially if the words are going to be spoken rather than read.

This play truly is a tragedy..It's a bit sick and twisted as well if the reader understands old English. Laius is told by an Oracle that he will be slain by his son. Oedipus, is told some years later, that he will slay his father and marry his mother. Oedipus leaves his parents and travels far to avoid this prophecy from coming true.What I liked best about this play, is that it shows that even when one tries to avoid something, sometimes that thing just can't be avoided. The Fates are twisted and play sick games and this play just makes that all the more clear. It centers around Apollo as the god to look to, since Apollo was known to have the best seers in all of Greece, and it's two of his Oracles that deliver the tragic prophecies.The story is truly sad and it's a bit depressing when the reader thinks of all the things Oedipus endured in his life, just for his wife who seemed to have known all along to withhold the information he sought.I'm a big fan of the Greece myths and plays.. and I definitely want to delve more into the Theban Plays.I give this book 5 of 5 paws

I was looking for a version of Oedipus that was easier to read than the archaic translations that seem to be everywhere. This certainly fit the bill - it was breezy and enjoyable. You can't beat it for a buck.

a gift for college student

100% recommended

Oedipus Rex is an easy-to-read classic tragedy. Anybody who is looking to develop a deeper knowledge of literature from ancient Greece and Rome should certainly check this one out. It is one of the basics.

Its not the book that was bad, it was my english teacher who made us read it who deserves the bad review. If you like old plays, this book is for you.

I was looking for a much easier and more modern translation of this play, and this book definitely exceeded those expectations. I bought this on my Kindle, but just in case, I also had an older translation of the play, which was definitely difficult to understand vs this one. I recommend this one so much, very easy to understand!

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