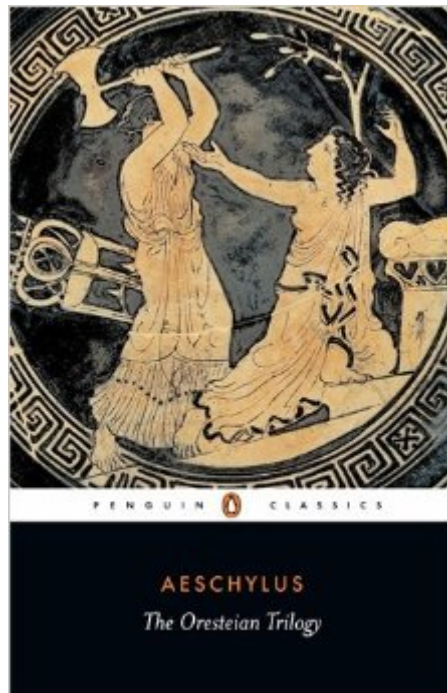


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The Oresteian Trilogy: Agamemnon; The Choephoroi; The Eumenides (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The only surviving trilogy from ancient times - a story of murder, madness and justiceAeschylus (525-c.456 bc) set his great trilogy in the immediate aftermath of the Fall of Troy, when King Agamemnon returns to Argos, a victor in war. Agamemnon depicts the hero's discovery that his family has been destroyed by his wife's infidelity and ends with his death at her callous hand. Clytemnestra's crime is repaid in The Choephoroi when her outraged son Orestes kills both her and her lover. The Eumenides then follows Orestes as he is hounded to Athens by the Furies' law of vengeance and depicts Athene replacing the bloody cycle of revenge with a system of civil justice. Written in the years after the Battle of Marathon, The Oresteian Trilogy affirmed the deliverance of democratic Athens not only from Persian conquest, but also from its own barbaric past. 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

The story of Orestes is known less to the general public than is the stories of the Trojan War that appear in Iliad and The Odyssey of Homer (Bantam Classics). Recent film features such as Troy

and Helen of Troy have omitted the character of Orestes altogether for the sake of simplicity. Aeschylus' trilogy is about the culmination of the curse of the house of Atreus, which is the most dysfunctional family in Greek mythology. The founder of the house was a fellow by the name of Tantalus. One day, Tantalus invited over Zeus, Apollo and Demeter for dinner. Before they arrived, he murdered his son, Pelops, and offered his entrails as the repast. Basically, he wanted to "get one over" on the gods. Demeter was the only one who was fooled as this happened around the time that Persephone was abducted to the underworld & the goddess was thus distracted. She immediately knew something was kahooey when she bit into the meat. She felt so bad that she brought Pelops back to life. As she had bitten into his shoulder, she gave him a prosthetic one as recompense. Zeus was not amused. The earth opened up underneath Tantalus and he fell down into Tartarus.

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