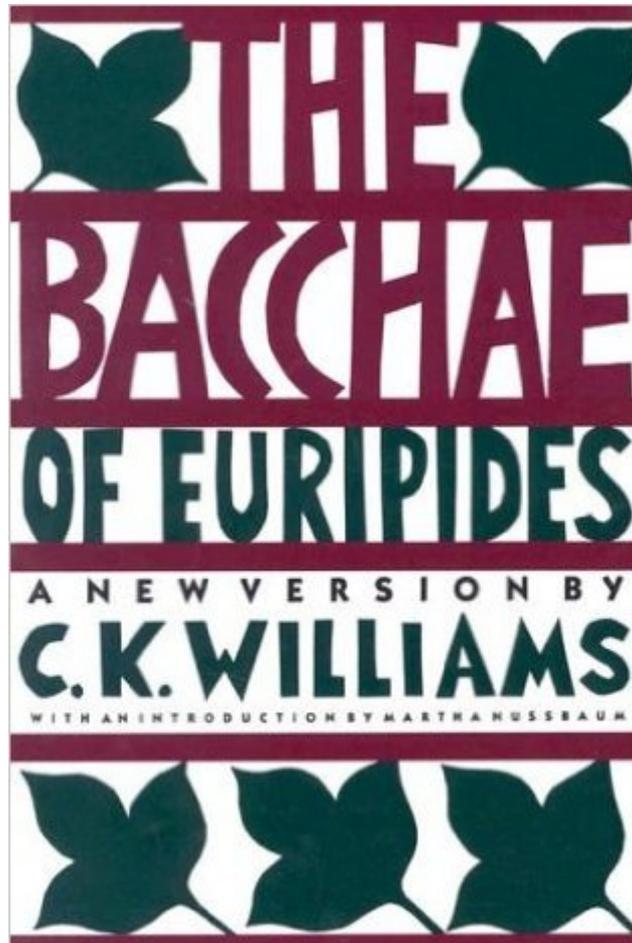


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The Bacchae Of Euripides



Synopsis

From the renowned contemporary American poet C. K. Williams comes this fluent and accessible version of the great tragedy by Euripides. This book includes an introduction by Martha Nussbaum.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I haven't read much Greek tragedy, and this is my first Euripides play, the Bacchae is the most awful I've yet to read. The fury of a god spurned by his family and city had me entranced in awe. I still can't quite understand it. I just had to be still and let its terrible beauty wash over me -- to experience it. I imagine that the audience at its first performance was full of fear and trembling. These feelings of attraction and revulsion seem appropriate for a god like Dionysus, a god who seems to embrace opposites. The surging, green life of the vine which dies and is cut back, only to send forth green shoots of new life. The joys of his revels which can slip into madness. . . The danger and messiness of life. While you don't necessarily have to embrace this verity, it must be acknowledged or you will slip into madness and death. These are the gifts of the god to those who deny him. "Then, at last, he'll know; Dionysus is a god. Dionysus is the son of Zeus. Dionysus is, for humans, fiercest and most sweet." After this declamation the god leaves the stage and the chorus expands upon it in some of the most beautiful and appealing language I've encountered in Greek tragedy: "On, will I, some-time, in the all-night dances, dance again, bare-foot, rapt, again, in Bacchus, again?"

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