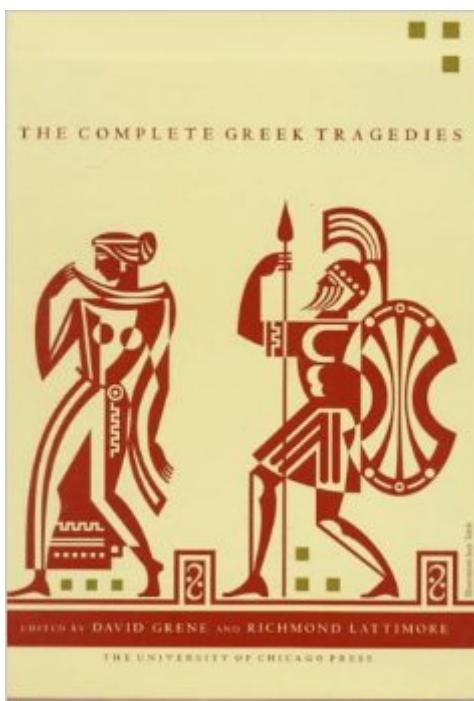


The book was found

# The Complete Greek Tragedies; 4 Vol



## **Synopsis**

Includes "Oedipus the King", "Oedipus at Colonus" and "Antigone". --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 2099 pages

Publisher: University of Chicago Press; First Printing edition (1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226307638

ISBN-13: 978-0226307633

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.7 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,034,389 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Medieval #260582 inÂ  Books > History

## **Customer Reviews**

Physically, this is a nice book. It's volume one of a four volume collection, The Complete Greek Tragedies (volume two is Sophocles and volumes three and four are Euripides), and all four volumes are lovely hardcovers, printed on nice paper, with handsome Greekish designs on the front and interspersed throughout. Maybe not so attractive as to go on your mantel, but their prominence in your library will not be an embarrassment. The contents are lovely to match. The translations (by Lattimore, Grene and Bernadete) are readable and flowing. The book has almost no footnotes (only Grene's translations of "Seven Against Thebes" and "Prometheus Bound" have any at all, and there they are sparse), but each play (or collection of plays, in the case of the Oresteia) is introduced by a brief explanatory essay. If you know nothing about the Greeks or Greek tragedy, these essays will not be enough to get you through (and you should check out Rose's Handbook of Greek Literature), but if you have a little background information already, the essays are helpful (especially the introductory essay to the Oresteia, which is the most fulsome). Now, about the plays themselves. Of course, you have to read them. This is, effectively, the beginning of Western drama, and the combination of familiar and alien elements is fascinating. In some ways, Aeschylus's plays are like modern musicals, or like opera, with very few characters, a big role played by a chorus, and lots of long songs. Action happens all off-stage and is described by the characters. In addition to being important as part of the history of drama, the plays are important primary sources of Greek

mythology. In particular, the Oresteia is simply the most complete telling of the murder of Agamemnon and his children's revenge.

One of Twain's better quotes is that a classic is a book that everybody wants to have read but no one wants to read. This is true of Aeschylus, but not in the sense that Twain intended. These plays are hard to read -- they often have lines that don't particularly make sense -- and they are essentially slow-motion monologues spouted to the audience. That said, the stories these plays tell, despite getting pooh-poohed a bit in the translators' introductions, are amazing, and even though I was relieved to put the book down, I find myself continually thinking about the characters and their lives long afterwards. First, the down sides: when I was taking Greek in college, we would sometimes run across passages that weren't quite meaningful. The sense of them was on the tip of our tongues in Greek, but any kind of English translation was misleading, being either nonsense or implying more than the Greek said. In those situations, we would naturally see what professional translators had done and some of them were pretty wild, taking a shot in the dark and essentially inventing a lucid English passage that had little to do with the Greek. These translations don't take that approach. They're more honest and seem content to approximate the Greek, even if it leaves the English reader grasping at threads. In some cases, a footnote might have helped with an allusion, but I suspect a number of these passages just don't have a meaning that can be fully recovered by moderns. And I certainly don't blame the translator: our collective sense, shared by undergrad and professor alike, was that Lattimore was the man when it came to translating Greek, so I figure this collection is about as good as it gets.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Greek: Greek Recipes - The Very Best Greek Cookbook (Greek recipes, Greek cookbook, Greek cook book, Greek recipe, Greek recipe book) GREEK MYTHOLOGY: Greek Gods Of Ancient Greece And Other Greek Myths - Discovering Greek History & Mythology - 3rd Edition - With Pics (Greece, Greek, Egyptian ... Greek History, Mythology, Myths Book 1) Eight Great Tragedies: The Complete Texts of the World's Great Tragedies from Ancient Times to the Twentieth Century Euripides I: Alcestis, The Medea, The Heracleidae, Hippolytus (The Complete Greek Tragedies) (Vol 3) Aeschylus I: Oresteia: Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides (The Complete Greek Tragedies) (Vol 1) Euripides V: Electra, The Phoenician Women, The Bacchae (The Complete Greek Tragedies) (Vol 5) The Complete Greek Tragedies; 4 vol The Pocket Oxford Greek Dictionary : Greek-English English-Greek Greek Tragedies, Vol. 1: Agamemnon/Prometheus Bound/Oedipus the King/Antigone/Hippolytus Sophocles I: Antigone, Oedipus the King, Oedipus at

Colonus (The Complete Greek Tragedies) Euripides V: Bacchae, Iphigenia in Aulis, The Cyclops, Rhesus (The Complete Greek Tragedies) Aeschylus II: The Oresteia (The Complete Greek Tragedies) Euripides I: Alcestis, Medea, The Children of Heracles, Hippolytus (The Complete Greek Tragedies) Sophocles II: Ajax, The Women of Trachis, Electra, Philoctetes, The Trackers (The Complete Greek Tragedies) Aeschylus I: The Persians, The Seven Against Thebes, The Suppliant Maidens, Prometheus Bound (The Complete Greek Tragedies) The Complete Greek Tragedies: Sophocles I Sophocles I: Antigone, Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus (The Complete Greek Tragedies Book 1) The Complete Greek Tragedies (4 Volume Set) Euripides III: Heracles, The Trojan Women, Iphigenia among the Taurians, Ion (The Complete Greek Tragedies) All That You've Seen Here Is God: New Versions of Four Greek Tragedies Sophocles' Ajax, Philoctetes, Women of Trachis; Aeschylus' Prometheus Bound (A Vintage original)

[Dmca](#)