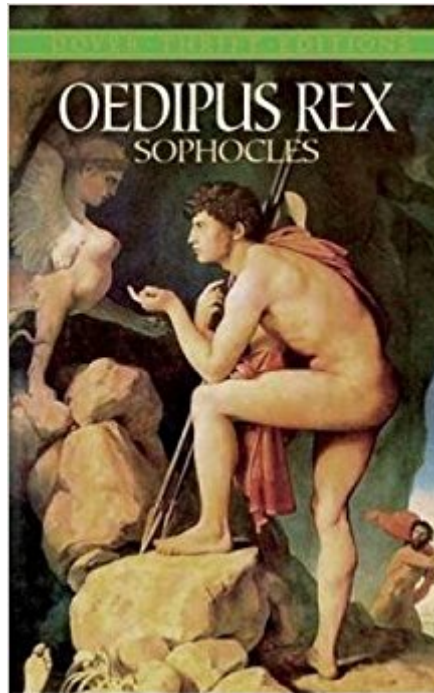


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# Oedipus Rex (Dover Thrift Editions)



## Synopsis

Considered by many the greatest of the classic Greek tragedies, *Oedipus Rex* is Sophocles' finest play and a work of extraordinary power and resonance. Aristotle considered it a masterpiece of dramatic construction and refers to it frequently in the *Poetics*. In presenting the story of King Oedipus and the tragedy that ensues when he discovers he has inadvertently killed his father and married his mother, the play exhibits near-perfect harmony of character and action. Moreover, the masterly use of dramatic irony greatly intensifies the impact of the agonizing events and emotions experienced by Oedipus and the other characters in the play. Now these and many other facets of this towering tragedy may be studied and appreciated in Dover's attractive inexpensive edition of one of the great landmarks of Western drama. A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A great work of world literature has at last become a great poem in English.

Mulroy's translation is far superior to other available English verse

translations. •Robert J. Rabel, editor of *Approaches to Homer*, Ancient and

Modern "Introductory notes on such matters as the historical background, fate vs. free will,

and (inevitably) the Oedipus Complex are clear and useful. •Peter Green, *The New*

*York Review of Books* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek

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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