



Ten Plays (Signet Classics)

By Euripides

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Ten Plays (Signet Classics) By Euripides Bibliography

- Rank: #106587 in Books
- Published on: 1998-10-01
- Released on: 1998-10-01
- Original language: Ancient Greek
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.75" h x 1.35" w x 4.25" l, .62 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 608 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Euripides, the youngest of the three great Athenian playwrights, was born around 485 BC of a family of good standing. He first competed in the dramatic festivals in 455 BC, coming only third; his record of success in the tragic competitions is lower than that of either Aeschylus or Sophocles. There is a tradition that he was unpopular, even a recluse; we are told that he composed poetry in a cave by the sea, near Salamis. What is clear from contemporary evidence, however, is that audiences were fascinated by his innovative and often disturbing dramas. His work was controversial already in his lifetime, and he himself was regarded as a 'clever' poet, associated with philosophers and other intellectuals. Towards the end of his life he went to live at the court of Archelaus, king of Macedon. It was during his time there that he wrote what many consider his greatest work, the **Bacchae**. When news of his death reached Athens in early 406 BC, Sophocles appeared publicly in mourning for him. Euripides is thought to have written about ninety-two plays, of which seventeen tragedies and one satyr-play known to be his survive; the other play which is attributed to him, the **Rhesus**, may in fact be by a later hand.

Paul Roche, a distinguished English poet and translator, is the author of **The Bible's Greatest Stories**. His other translations include **Euripides: Ten Plays** (Signet), **Oedipus Plays of Sophocles** (Meridian) and **The Orestes Plays of Aeschylus** (Meridian).

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