



# Trojan Women (Greek Tragedy in New Translations)

By Euripides

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## Trojan Women (Greek Tragedy in New Translations) By Euripides

Among surviving Greek tragedies only Euripides' *Trojan Women* shows us the extinction of a whole city, an entire people. Despite its grim theme, or more likely because of the centrality of that theme to the deepest fears of our own age, this is one of the relatively few Greek tragedies that regularly finds its way to the stage. Here the power of Euripides' theatrical and moral imagination speaks clearly across the twenty-five centuries that separate our world from his. The theme is really a double one: the suffering of the victims of war, exemplified by the woman who survive the fall of Troy, and the degradation of the victors, shown by the Greeks' reckless and ultimately self-destructive behavior. It offers an enduring picture of human fortitude in the midst of despair. *Trojan Women* gains special relevance, of course, in times of war. It presents a particularly intense account of human suffering and uncertainty, but one that is also rooted in considerations of power and policy, morality and expedience. Furthermore, the seductions of power and the dangers both of its exercise and of resistance to it as portrayed in *Trojan Women* are not simply philosophical or rhetorical gambits but part of the lived experience of Euripides' day. And their analogues in our own day lie all too close at hand.

This new powerful translation of *Trojan Women* includes an illuminating introduction, explanatory notes, a glossary, and suggestions for further reading.

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#### Review

"This elegant, self-assured translation brings the Greek Tragedy in New Translations series to a triumphant conclusion. The dialogue reads fluently and naturally, and the choral odes have a graceful lilt. The introduction not only provides historical context but also makes a persuasive case for the play's relevance to our own time. "--Justina Gregory, Smith College

"The publication is an important contribution to the field. Shapiro's poetic translation works not just as a rendering of Greek, but as a good, at times gripping, English-language script. Despite working from a translation, Shapiro's version is notable for its closeness to the Greek in many points, and Burian's notes further tie the English to the original text. On occasion, Shapiro's closeness to the original extends as far as replicating wordplays while maintaining rhythm, an important and noteworthy achievement. Shapiro's success in expressing the Greek metaphor is evidence of his skill as a poet. The best aspect of Burian's notes is the careful elucidation of ancient Greek throughout." --*Bryn Mawr Classical Review*

#### About the Author

**Peter Burian** is Professor of Classical & Comparative Literatures and Theater Studies, Duke University.

**Alan Shapiro** is Professor of English and Creative Writing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A winner of the prestigious Lila Wallace Reader's Digest award for 1992-95, he is the author of several poetry collections, including *Tantalus in Love, Song and Dance*, and *The Dead Alive and Busy*.

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