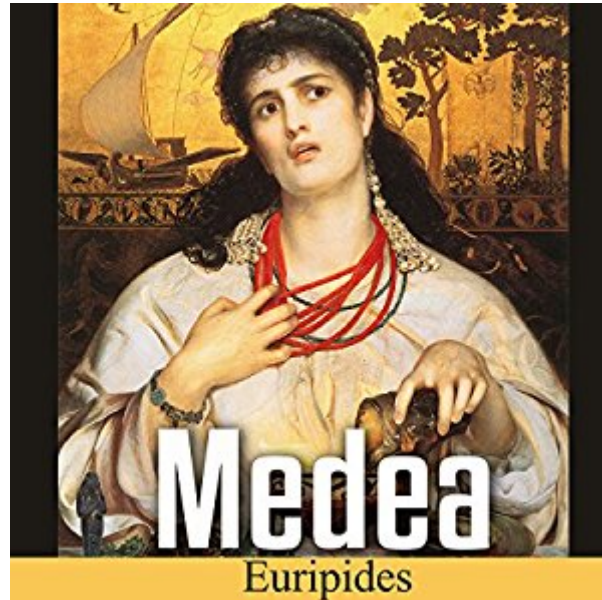


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# Medea



## Synopsis

The Medea, in spite of its background of wonder and enchantment, is not a romantic play but a tragedy of character and situation. It deals, so to speak, not with the romance itself, but with the end of the romance, a thing which is so terribly often the reverse of romantic. For all but the very highest of romances are apt to have just one flaw somewhere, and in the story of Jason and Medea the flaw was of a fatal kind. The wildness and beauty of the Argo legend run through all Greek literature, from the mass of Corinthian lays older than our present Iliad, which later writers vaguely associate with the name of Eumæus, to the "Fourth Pythian Ode" of Pindar and the beautiful Argonautica of Apollonius Rhodius. Our poet knows the wildness and the beauty; but it is not these qualities that he specially seeks. He takes them almost for granted, and pierces through them to the sheer tragedy that lies below.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book to update my memory of Medea for a campfire circle with my grandchildren. So some of you might say, "How could you tell little children this story?" Well, I used to tell my daughter Edgar Alan Poe stories around the campfire. She remembered them so well that she begged me for more for our recent trip camping with her sons. Medea is a perfect story for all ages. Euripides tells it much better than I. The English in this version is from about a century ago but if you're used to Edgar Alan Poe or his contemporaries it is very good. Medea pulls your heartstrings and lets us know that not much really changes over the thousands of years when it comes to human emotion.

The forward in this edition provides an excellent basis for the understanding of the climate in which the play was first crafted as well as providing a break down of what we will be reading/ its meanings. Unfortunately the latter is securely in spoiler territory for those who want to go in blind... or as much as one can with a millennia-old classic work of fiction. Disturbing and incredibly human throughout. A good thought piece if nothing else.

Euripedes's plays included in the book have been translated into Portuguese with rigor, competence, and sensibility. The introductions and notes are also very illuminating and helpful.

A very accessible translation, supported by a good introduction and well reasoned and scholarly end notes regarding the disputed issues in the meaning and style points of the play.

This is a fascinating exploration of revenge and justice and is delivered by an unforgettable woman. Medea's cold and calculated wrath is incredible to read.

I read this before heading to Ashland to see Medea/Macbeth/Cinderella just to have a frame of reference. I enjoy plays in a wide variety of forms and styles from Shakespeare to Chekhov. I must say that I also enjoyed the tale of Jason and the Argonauts which was the first appearance of Medea. In that story she did some pretty horrific things, such as chopping her brother into bits and scattering the pieces in the Black Sea to shed her pursuing father. So I was ready for her to commit some atrocities. The play is short and pretty much consists of one setting. Granted this was written (or played and told) in a time when there weren't 'sets'. But the play mainly consists of Medea conversing with a variety of folk. She is angry that Jason, her husband, has taken a new wife, one with a better social standing. Medea plots revenge. She curses a dress and causes it to engulf Jason's new wife and her father, the king, in flames. She then kills her own children in order to prevent others from using them against her. But really it seems she did all of this just to torment Jason. The events are tragic, but take place away from the 'viewer'. We hear about the death of the king and his daughter from a servant and Medea goes into her house and commits her final atrocity. It really detaches the reader. Again, I understand that this was groundbreaking in Ancient Greece. But after reading so many modern plays, it really does show its age. It is well worth reading for a foundation on classic theater, but reading for entertainment, it will probably fall short of expectations. I could see it being adapted well to modern stage with some good writing and directing though. I downloaded the free version to my Kindle player on my phone. It was a good version (different from

the paperback I checked out from the library, just a different translation). It is the same version on the Project Gutenberg site and was probably the same individual(s) that published it for the Kindle as well.

Recommended reading for 9th graders and he didn't like it!

Great reading for high school students (due to the subject matter). The language is adapted for easy access.

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Euripides: Alcestis, Medea, Hippolytus Medea and Other Plays (Oxford World's Classics) Medea and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) Medea (Dover Thrift Editions) Seneca Six Pack - On the Happy Life, Letters from a Stoic Vol I, Medea, On Leisure, The Daughters of Troy and The Stoic (Illustrated) (Six Pack Classics Book 4) Medea and Other Plays (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition) (Penguin Classics) Medea (Hackett Classics) Euripides: Medea, Hippolytus, Heracles, Bacchae Medea

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