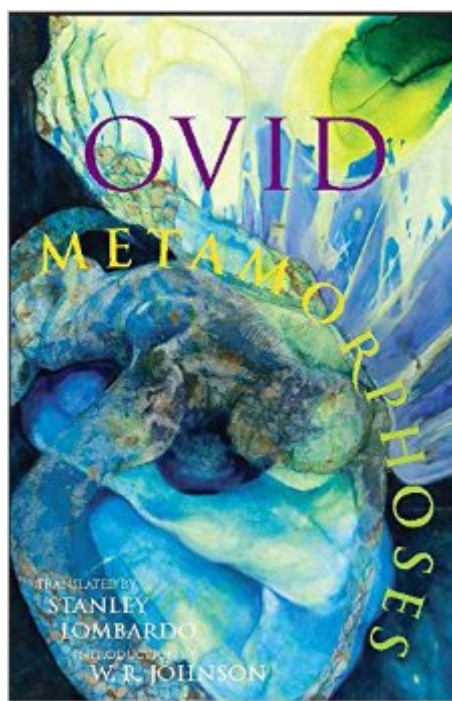


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Metamorphoses (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* gains its ideal twenty-first-century herald in Stanley Lombardo's bracing translation of a wellspring of Western art and literature that is too often treated, even by poets, as a mere vehicle for the scores of myths it recasts and transmits rather than as a unified work of art with epic-scale ambitions of its own. Such misconceptions are unlikely to survive a reading of Lombardo's rendering, which vividly mirrors the brutality, sadness, comedy, irony, tenderness, and eeriness of Ovid's vast world as well as the poem's effortless pacing. Under Lombardo's spell, neither Argus nor anyone else need fear nodding off. The translation is accompanied by an exhilarating Introduction by W. R. Johnson that unweaves and reweaves many of the poem's most important themes while showing how the poet achieves some of his most brilliant effects. An analytical table of contents, a catalog of transformations, and a glossary are also included.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I find that Lombardo's translation lucid and taut, with full use of the modern idiom. He keeps things moving fast, and one often gets the feeling of wanting to recite the beautiful poem out loud! Hackett's amazing edition could very well be the "reference" version well suited to university use and everyday use. Each book is divided into its own sub-chapters (anywhere from 7-19 subsections)! Which makes it wonderfully easy to find any story or speech. And the "Catalog of

Transformations" at the back of the book is amazing! Perfect for those wanting to have every single transformation compiled for quick reference! The generous and well spaced print is as Lombardo's other verse translations. In my opinion Lombardo's version is the only one that rivals Penguin's classic (prose) version with Mary Innes. Ovid's use of similes are just as important and as profound as Homer's or Virgil's. My only quip is that Lombardo doesn't employ italics when faced with a simile as he does in his other famous translations. Nevertheless, it seems that there's nothing Stanley Lombardo can't translate! I just can't wait what he'll do next!...tackle Pindar's Odes?...perhaps complete his Dante?...or even Appollonius of Rhodes's Argonautica?

I took a class over classic Greek and Roman literature and this was among the assigned reading. We were only accountable for half or so of the book, but I found I couldn't put it down. One of my favorite pieces of literature I've ever read, and comparing other translations, I found Lombardo's to be very readable.

Very clearly written with the stories easy to understand and relate to human emotions of today. So many words and terms relate to the stories in Metamorphoses, it helps to know the stories behind the words

This is a good translation as far as the text goes, but it is utterly useless in class because it doesn't have the real line numbers. Students therefore can't find references -- for example, if I want them to look at the story of Apollo and Daphne, I can't tell them to go to 1.452 because the text doesn't tell them where that is. If they want to check a reference from another book, or need to compare several translations (both things that come up often in classes), they can't do it because this edition is missing the actual line numbers. A general reader who wants to read the Metamorphoses once and never think about it again could use this; a student simply can't, and I won't assign it.

I really enjoyed reading Ovid's Metamorphoses. I love how he re-tells myths. Highly recommend!

Ovid's Metamorphoses is not only for the snobs but truly a classic for all peoples and ages!

I enjoyed metamorphoses very much. I liked that I found the name morpheus and niobe.

2 of 5 books that I've ordered. Perfect and quick.

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