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A COMPANION TO TRAGEDY

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From Wiley-Blackwell : A Companion to Tragedy (Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Companion to Tragedy (Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An indispensable companionBy Felipe ValenciaIt is an excellent collection of essays, and very helpful for the student of tragedy. I've been using it as a guide in my study of tragedy and the chapters have proven reliable and judicious, particularly the ones on theories of tragedy. The editorial effort is impressive. I would have liked greater uniformity in the bibliographies--some are commented, some are not. I

personally prefer them to be commented. I think it serves better the purpose of a companion volume. The one thing I find objectionable is the Anglocentrism (but I must admit that in this volume, it isn't nearly as bad as it usually is even in the most serious scholarly volumes). To take an example, there are three chapters dedicated to English Renaissance tragedy and none to neo-Latin and Italian Renaissance tragedy. The true cultural center in the Renaissance was Italy, not England, no matter what Hollywood will have us believe, therefore it is basically silly to do away with the neo-Latin and Italian models for European tragedies, including those of Shakespeare.

A Companion to Tragedy is an essential resource for anyone interested in exploring the role of tragedy in Western history and culture. Tells the story of the historical development of tragedy from classical Greece to modernity Features 28 essays by renowned scholars from multiple disciplines, including classics, English, drama, anthropology and philosophy Broad in its scope and ambition, it considers interpretations of tragedy through religion, philosophy and history Offers a fresh assessment of Ancient Greek tragedy and demonstrates how the practice of reading tragedy has changed radically in the past two decades

"The Blackwell Companions series is intended to orientate the beginning student in new fields of study while providing the graduate and experienced undergraduate with current and new directions. The present volume serves these objectives well.... Bushnell's edition gives the reader a sense of the scope and fertility of the most current scholarship on the genre." (Journal of Hellenic Studies, February 2009) "These essays, as would be expected from their authors, manifest a high standard of scholarship and familiarity with current understandings.... The volume has a place on the desk of every reference librarian at the college and university level." Bryn Mawr Classical "Rebecca Bushnell's Companion belongs to the series of companions being published by Blackwell. In accord with the objectives of the series, the companion on tragedy is designed to orient new students and provide advanced undergraduates and graduates "with current and new directions." Bushnell's Companion attains the goals of the series...The essays, as would be expected from their authors, manifest a high standard of scholarship and familiarity with current understandings, some of which their efforts have created. They are accessible to the undergraduate who wishes to expend effort... The volume has a place on the desk of every reference librarian at the college and university level." Wm. Blake Tyrrell, Michigan State University "The arrangement of the contents and an index that provides coverage of all the essays, allows immediate targeting of specific topics and quick referencing, whilst in its entirety the book provides an excellent survey of tragedy as it is currently studied. Aimed primarily at undergraduates and useful to postgraduates needing to orientate themselves in the scholarship of this area, this title is a useful addition to the academic library." Reference sFrom the Back CoverA Companion to Tragedy is an essential resource for anyone interested in exploring the role of tragedy in Western history and culture. The Companion is based on the premise that the genre of tragedy is inseparable from history, insofar as it was born in the Greek city-state, and its life has been intertwined with the fate of dynasties, revolutions, and crises of social change. At the same time, this historical approach is complemented by consideration of philosophical and religious readings of tragedy. Featuring essays by renowned scholars from multiple disciplines, the volume is structured into two parts: the first set of essays on "tragic thought" considers interpretations of tragedy through religion, philosophy, and history; while the second set on "tragedy in history" traces the historical development of tragedy from classical Greece to modernity. Together, they demonstrate how the practice of reading tragedy has changed radically in the past two decades.