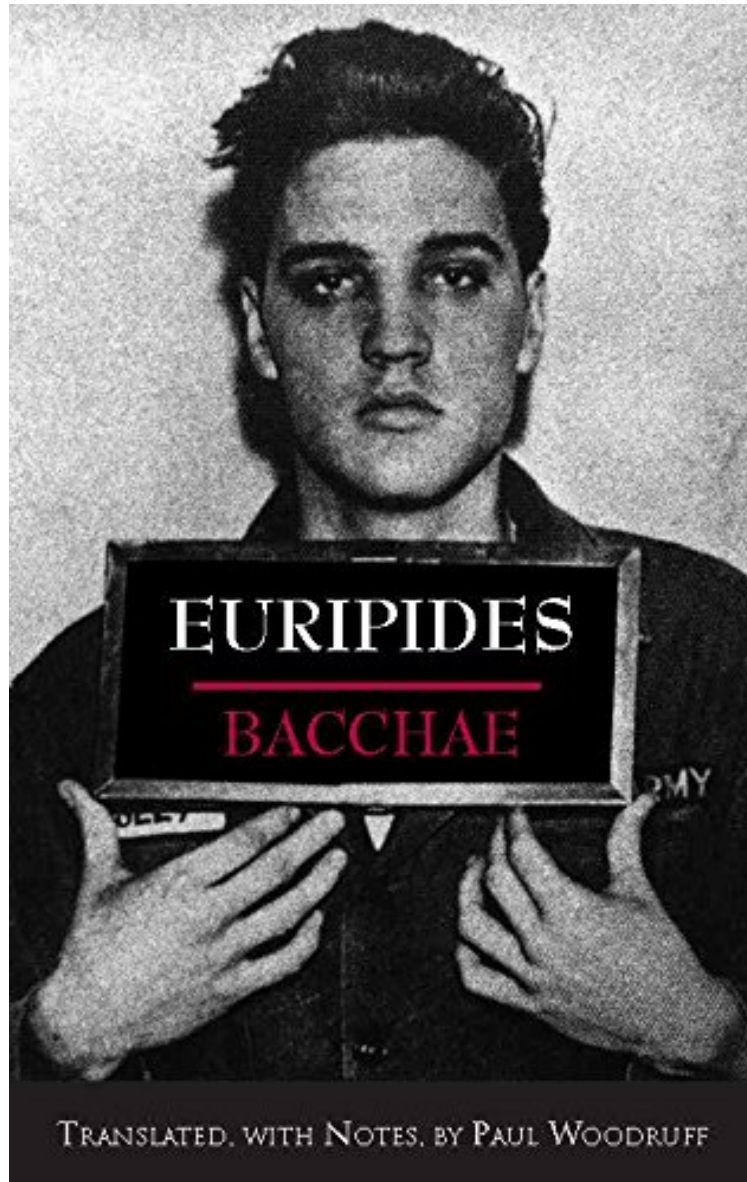


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## Bacchae (Hackett Classics)

*Euripides, Paul Woodruff*

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**Euripides, Paul Woodruff : Bacchae (Hackett Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bacchae (Hackett Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the sleep of reasonBy horse with no name"The Bacchae," along with Sophocles' "Oedipus at Colonus," marks the end of the great age of Greek tragedy. The conventional wisdom about this play--at least since Friedrich Nietzsche--is that here Euripides repented his earlier rationalist debunking of the Olympian pantheon and returned to the simple faith of his ancestors. I have my doubts. "The Bacchae" resembles

nothing so much as a cautionary tale of the 1960s counterculture. While Pentheus, with his mental rigidity and fear of change, bears a striking resemblance to the hero of Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart," Dionysus brings to mind such charismatic--and deadly--cult leaders as Charles Manson, David Koresh, and Jim Jones. Interestingly Dionysus' entourage, like the Manson family, is almost exclusively female. The disgusting savagery of Dionysian ritual illustrates the dangers of abandoning reason, logic, and human decency to follow our dark primitive instincts. A modern treatment of the same theme is Thomas Tryon's "Harvest Home." Paul Woodruff provided the highly informative introduction (although I disagree thoroughly with his conclusions) and his translation into vigorous, straightforward contemporary English gives us a glimpse of what a shattering impact "The Bacchae" must have had on its first audience. "The Bacchae" may well be one of the most disturbing creations in the western literary canon. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Ripping good translation By Mcbruce56 The play of a king who defied and ridiculed a God, and was torn apart by women as punishment. This translation is supple, clear, poetic. The notes are instructive. The introduction does get a little tedious in reviewing every possible interpretation of the play, but if you're reading this for school, you might be grateful for it. A very fine job. He even (sort of) explains the ed cover of Elvis, whom he equates to the young God. Now that would be a staged version to see: Elvis as Bacchus! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. 2500+ Years Later, Still Astonishingly Moving By Judith Even though the circumstances aren't current - citizens running off to the countryside to worship Bacchae - and the drama is not what moderns expect - most of the action takes place offstage, there is something in this play that is moving and still speaks to the human experience - at least it did to me. Perhaps it's simply that the characters are thoroughly invested in what they believe to be right and true - and they are also deluded - and pay heavily, the heaviest possible price. Impossible not to be moved by that fundamental human experience even if circumstances are completely different now. I am not competent to judge the translation, other than it was easy to read. The notes were comprehensive, the opening introduction was very helpful.

[Woodruff's translation] is clear, fluent, and vigorous, well thought out, readable and forceful. The rhythms are right, ever-present but not too insistent or obvious. It can be spoken instead of read and so is viable as an acting version; and it keeps the lines of the plot well focused. The Introduction offers a good survey of critical approaches. The notes at the foot of the page are suitably brief and nonintrusive and give basic information for the non-specialist. --Charles Segal, Harvard University

This is a very useful edition, excellent for classroom purposes. The translation is clear and lively, and several students commented on how much they enjoyed it. The introduction provides an excellent overview of the issues in the play, as well as of earlier scholarship, making it a good resource for more advanced classes. The cover photo is an added bonus and provided the starting point for stimulating class discussion. --James B. Rives, York University