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By Homer

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The Odyssey (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) By Homer Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Robert Fagles's translation is a jaw-droppingly beautiful rendering of Homer's *Odyssey*, the most accessible and enthralling epic of classical Greece. Fagles captures the rapid and direct language of the original Greek, while telling the story of Odysseus in lyrics that ring with a clear, energetic voice. The story itself has never seemed more dynamic, the action more compelling, nor the descriptions so brilliant in detail. It is often said that every age demands its own translation of the classics. Fagles's work is a triumph because he has not merely provided a contemporary version of Homer's classic poem, but has located the right language for the timeless character of this great tale. Fagles brings the *Odyssey* so near, one wonders if the Hollywood adaption can be far behind. This is a terrific book.

From Publishers Weekly

Robert Fagles's 1990 translation of *The Iliad* was highly praised; here, he moves to *The Odyssey*. As in the previous work, he adroitly mixes contemporary language with the driving rhythms of the original. The first line reads: "Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns/ driven time and again off course once he had plundered/ the hallowed heights of Troy." Hellenic scholar Bernard Knox contributes extensive introductory commentary, providing both historical and literary perspective. Notes, a pronouncing glossary, genealogies, a bibliography and maps of Homer's world are included.

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From Library Journal

Translator Fagles (comparative literature, Princeton Univ.) offers a new verse translation of the *Odyssey*, a worthy companion to his version of the *Iliad* (LJ 8/90). Joining the translations of Robert Fitzgerald, Richard Lattimore, and, more recently, Allan Mandelbaum, his version attempts to achieve readability and the vigor of the original, avoiding the anachronizing of Fitzgerald. At the same time he is more literal than Lattimore and Mandelbaum. As with his *Iliad*, this translation is accompanied by a long introduction, notes, and glossaries, provided by noted classicist Bernard Knox. Fagles's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* provide both the general reader and the student of literature a fine version of Homer in English. —Thomas L. Cooksey, Armstrong State Coll., Savannah, Ga.

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