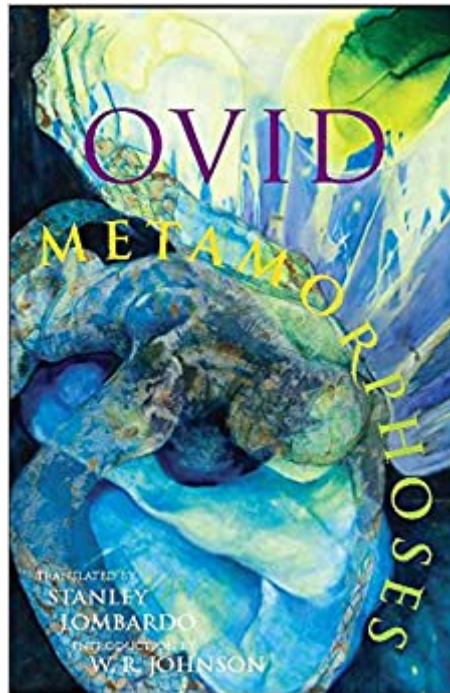


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# Metamorphoses (Hackett Classics)



## 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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## Customer Reviews

Stanley Lombardo successfully matches Ovid's human drama, imaginative brio, and irresistible momentum; and Ralph Johnson's superb Introduction to Ovid's 'narratological paradise' is a bonus to this new and vigorous translation that should not be missed. Together, Introduction and text bring out the delightful unpredictability of Ovid's 'history of the world' down to his times.--Elaine Fantham, Giger Professor of Latin, Emerita, Princeton University Lombardo's translation is the most readable I've seen. . . . Its language is modern, accessible, and unpretentious. . . . I can imagine

reading all the way through this version with students. I also admire the catalog of transformations . . . and, as usual, an Introduction by Ralph Johnson is worth the price of the book.--Margaret Musgrove, University of Central Oklahoma  
A superb teaching text. The translation is readable, witty, and very accessible to today's students. The glossary is useful, and Johnson's essay is a great introduction to Ovid.--John Makowski, Loyola University, Chicago

Stanley Lombardo is Professor of Classics, University of Kansas. W. R. Johnson is Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, Emeritus, University of Chicago.

Am glad to have this as a Kindle edition of Ovid's telling of ancient myths. Currently (Summer, 2013) am engaged in an online discussion of these myths. Am complimenting Martin's translation with two others, one in prose and the other by Mandelbaum -- which I rather prefer to Martin for the rendering of the poetry. Seldom can any one translation of an ancient language or document be sufficient to render meaning into terms adequate both to the original author and the modern reader; one can be grateful when time and translations are adequate and available to explore alternatives.

Great story telling from the Ancient Greco-Roman era told by Ovid from how the world began to when Augustus reigned all with a moral or a "transformation" in the end when the characters offended the gods or the gods took pity, or showed their loved to mankind. Why we frogs, certain birds spiders, trees, flowers. You know it's not true however Ovid's storytelling is so entertaining it makes you wonder..is it? Must read for everyone at some point in your life. Highly enjoyed!

I read a very standard translation of the Metamorphoses in high school. My daughter is a fan of YA fantasy books that feature reworking of myths (e.g., the Rick Riordan series) and I thought she would like having the source material for them, with index. She does. I have looked through the book myself and find the translation very compelling. I particularly liked the story of Actaeon, and how he was torn apart by his own hounds as punishment for being a peeping tom. It was brutal yet emotional.

I bought this ancient classic because I am guiding in an art museum, and this work has inspired so many artists. It's full of drama of the same kind we see in special-effects movies aimed at thrill-seeking youngsters these days. Beautiful young women turn into trees, gods cheat on their goddesses, virile young men speed through the sky seeking vengeance "that sort of thing."

Really, it reminded me that human folly and frailty don't change over the centuries. All a great storyteller like Ovid needs is a good translator like this one.

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.

Ovid's Metamorphoses is an astonishingly brilliant rendering of Greek myths in Roman form. This is, in my opinion, the best translation of this classic. It reads like poetry and is dynamic in its pace never missing a beat - a great piece of translation.

The entire book is a compilation of different stories that Ovid thought to be less recognized among the Greek culture. My Greek Mythology professor explained that if you can draw a strong connection between each story then you are reading it wrong, haha. The stories are quite interesting though and I remember most of them. The translation is pretty good and easy to read.

Honestly, I'm only reading this for a Classical Mythology course, it's not a bad book, but it isn't a total bore for a Mechanical Engineering major. The Kindle version is lighter and I can highlight in it endlessly.

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