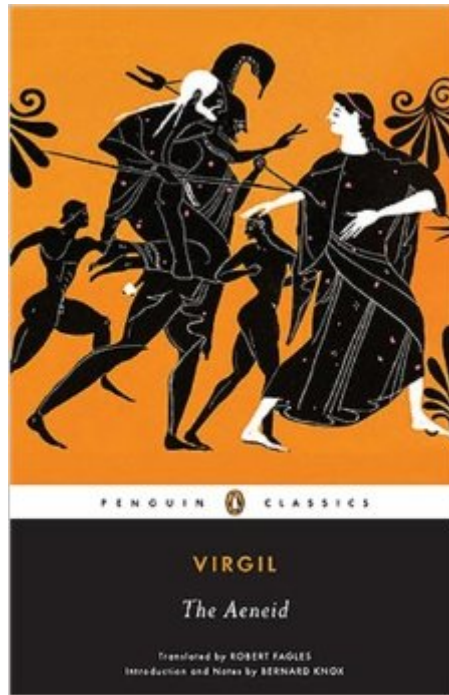


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# The Aeneid (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

From the award-winning translator of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* comes a brilliant new translation of Virgil's great epic. Fleeing the ashes of Troy, Aeneas, Achilles's™ mighty foe in the *Iliad*, begins an incredible journey to fulfill his destiny as the founder of Rome. His voyage will take him through stormy seas, entangle him in a tragic love affair, and lure him into the world of the dead itself--all the way tormented by the vengeful Juno, Queen of the Gods. Ultimately, he reaches the promised land of Italy where, after bloody battles and with high hopes, he founds what will become the Roman empire. An unsparing portrait of a man caught between love, duty, and fate, the *Aeneid* redefines passion, nobility, and courage for our times. Robert Fagles, whose acclaimed translations of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were welcomed as major publishing events, brings the *Aeneid* to a new generation of readers, retaining all of the gravitas and humanity of the original Latin as well as its powerful blend of poetry and myth. Featuring an illuminating introduction to Virgil's world by esteemed scholar Bernard Knox, this volume lends a vibrant new voice to one of the seminal literary achievements of the ancient world. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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## Customer Reviews

A work for the ages. In a word: Magnificent. I don't like to read translations because I know that so much is lost from the original language. As a poet and writer, I know how important the play of language is, its rhythms, a word's several meanings. But when it comes to The Classics, I have to set that issue aside and try to find the "best" translation I can find. I also realize that people in antiquity read aloud, even when alone. This was such a common practice, in fact, that Augustine remarked in his Confessions (c. 398) how surprised he was when he found a friend in his room reading to himself, silently. So, when I learned of Robert Fagles' translation of Virgil's *The Aeneid*, I got excited. The NYT wrote of it: "Fagles always aimed to produce translations for reading aloud, and for his translations to be fully savored you have to take them in by the ear." I downloaded Fagles' *The Aeneid* as an audiobook and started listening. But I soon found myself getting "lost" while listening. Maybe it was me as a modern reader (not a listener), maybe it was the flow of words. The language seemed so rich that it felt like I was hitting a wall of sound and words. The story was there somewhere but I had a hard time following it. So, I bought a paperback copy of the book, too. Then I listened and followed the text as well. What a delightful experience! I could follow along the text and listen, and I have to say, it was incredible. Now that I've finished this Fagles translation, I just might try his Homer. I've already read Pope's translation of both *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. But now I feel encouraged to try listening to both. I did not understand what was meant by "epic poetry" until I read those two works. Now, with Virgil's *The Aeneid*, my trifecta is complete.

This review is not a review of the story of Aeneas, but rather a review of Robert Fagles's translation of the *Aeneid*. Fagles's work in this translation is readable, accessible, and over-all well executed. The Penguin Classics version of Fagles's translation is a great book to hold in your hand. The book FEELS good. Also, the book has some extras that make it essential. First, Barnard Knox has written an excellent introduction to the text. He explains Virgil's cultural and literary context, and he discusses the *Aeneid*'s relationship to its Homeric predecessors. Highly recommended reading. Second, the book has a helpful map of Aeneas's wanderings which helps orient the reader. Third, in the back of the book is a pronunciation guide and glossary. Some of these names are a bit strange, so it's a good idea to refer to the back sometimes for some help. Every character and place in the book, no matter how minor, is explained in the glossary. In addition to all these benefits, this translation of the text is quite good. Fagles has produced a verse translation, which preserves the

poetic nature of the original. If you're looking for a prose version of the Aeneid, then this book might not be for you (but I'd suggest you give the verse a try). The other verse translation that I would recommend is Robert Fitzgerald's (The Aeneid). Both translations are very good, and I believe that some passages in Fitzgerald's are better than Fagles's, and vice versa. However, the Fitzgerald translation does not contain the same helpful extras that I mentioned above. Penguin Classics provides superb auxiliary materials in all their volumes.

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