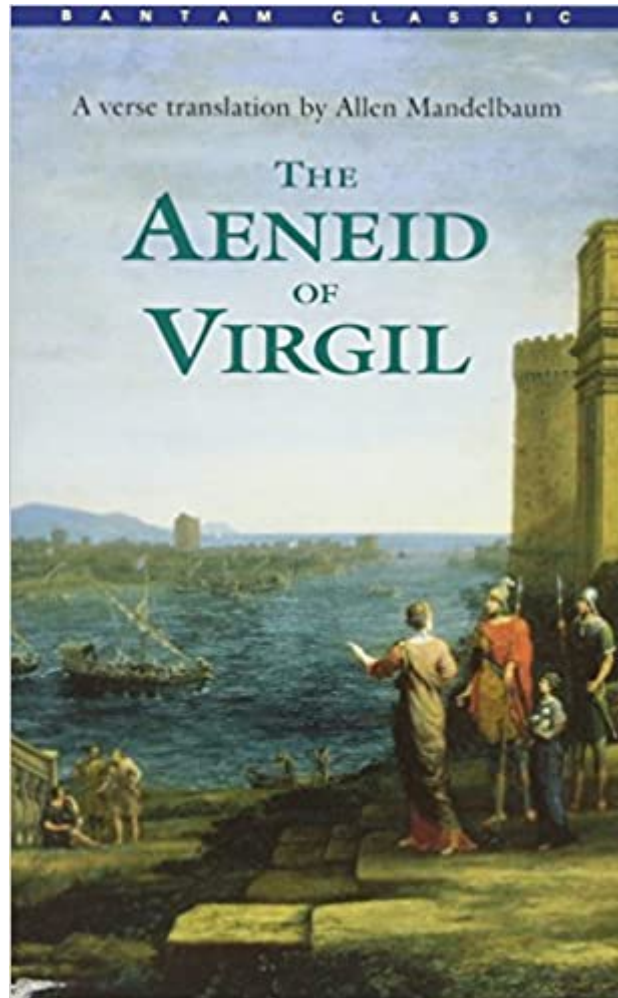




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The Aeneid Of Virgil (Bantam Classics)



Synopsis

Aeneas flees the ashes of Troy to found the city of Rome and change forever the course of the Western world--as literature as well. Virgil's Aeneid is as eternal as Rome itself, a sweeping epic of arms and heroism--the searching portrait of a man caught between love and duty, human feeling and the force of fate--that has influenced writers for over 2,000 years. Filled with drama, passion, and the universal pathos that only a masterpiece can express. The Aeneid is a book for all the time and all people.

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Customer Reviews

"Allen Mandelbaum has produced a living Aeneid, a version that is unmistakably poetry." -- Erich Segal, The New York Times Book Review
"A brilliant translation; the only one since Dryden which reads like English verse and conveys some of the majesty and pathos of the original." -- Bernard M. W. Knox
"Mandelbaum has... given us a contemporary experience of the masterpiece, at last." -- David Ignatow

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I purchased this particular translation of the Aeneid to help me read the original Latin text, and it has done a good job of helping me understand complicated grammatical phrases filled with patronymics and Greek constructions. Mandelbaum's translation, however, is not the most enjoyable to read. He translates literally many of the Latin verb tenses, which make more sense in the original language, making the reader feel slightly disoriented. Furthermore, part of the beauty of the Aeneid is its mood of antiquity. Mandelbaum modernizes the language, creating such ridiculous lines as, "It was so hard to found the race of Rome" (I.50). A translation that stays closer to the original Latin, and sounds less colloquial in English, would be something like "What a burden it was to found the Roman race." There are several annoying but simple typos, such as "though" for "through" which make the reader feel that the text was not thoroughly edited. Although it is to be expected with Bantam Classics books, the margins leave very little space for notes, and the text runs to the middle of the page, meaning that you can't easily hold the book open with just one hand. So, all things considered, this is a great book for Latin students looking for a literal translation of the Aeneid, but those looking for an enjoyable English read should look elsewhere (try *The Aeneid* (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition), for instance).

I took AP Latin: Vergil Junior year and had to read this book before I got to class. I thought that it was going to be extremely boring and dry. I was surprised. Mandelbaum makes the book more than tolerable, dare I say somewhat enjoyable. He's probably more colloquial than most of the other translations, which helps when you're trying to remember precise details of the plot from how Troy's Priam and his family die, to the treacherous journey of Aeneas across foreign lands. It's not going to be good for translating since it's not exactly direct word for word, but if you want to understand the book, this is the translation to get.

Classic Tale.

Reads beautifully. Mandelbaum uses splendid English prose in his translation. The epic itself is excellently told by Virgil and I would give the story a 5. I did not like the thin, yellowing pages with tiny print. This is a Bantam book.

The book was pretty good but very hard to understand at points. I had to read it for my humanities class at UCSD, and it was one of the better books to read. This book is required for HUM 2, for any of you UCSD students searching for this - I've taken the class. Use sparknotes to get a brief summary before you read this, and it will help you understand the plot better.

Very good translation

the translation is clunky, so a bit disappointing, obviously the texts are classics

this classic series is the epitome of ancient roman literature!

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