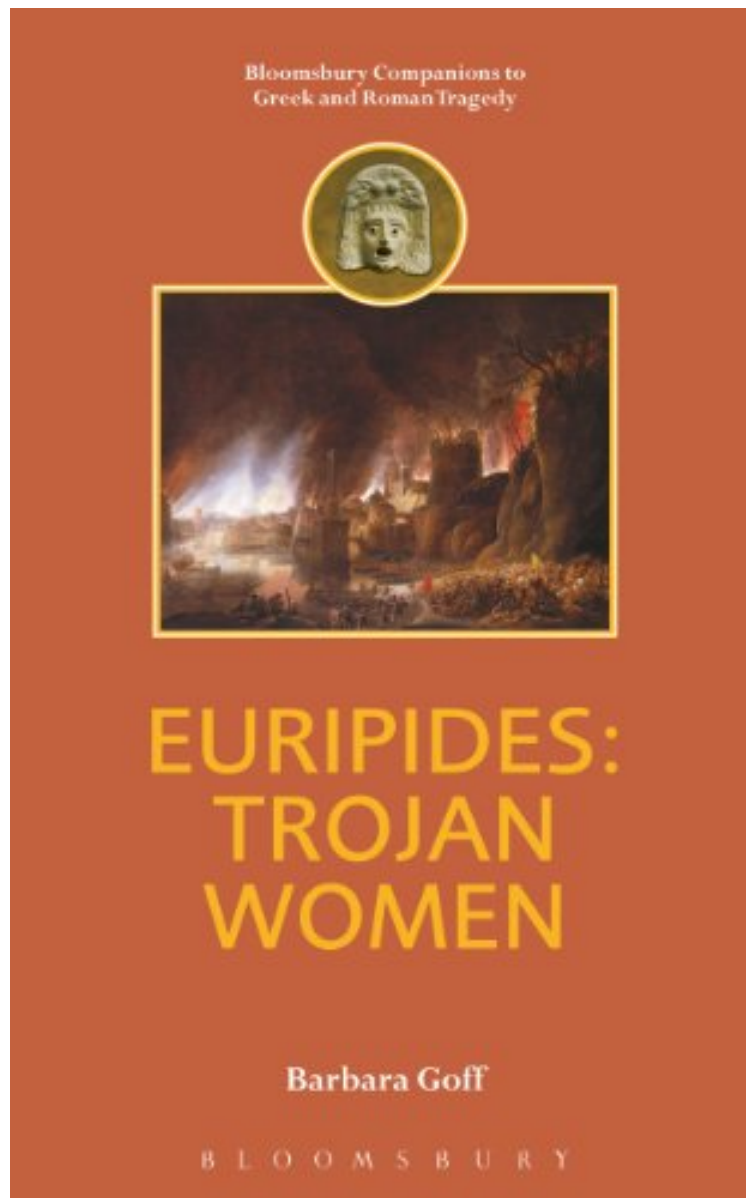


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Euripides: Trojan Women (Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy)

Barbara Goff

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Barbara Goff : Euripides: Trojan Women (Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Euripides: Trojan Women (Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy):

Set at the end of the Trojan war, "Euripides' Trojan Women" depicts the women of Troy as they wait to be taken into slavery. While choral songs recall the death-throes of the great city, the scenes between the old queen, Hekabe, and the women of her family explore the consequences of the defeat, from the rape of Cassandra, through the triumphant self-exculpation of Helen, to the pitiful death of the child Astyanax, who is thrown from the walls of his ravaged city. Barbara Goff sets the play in its historical, dramatic and literary contexts, and provides a scene-by-scene analysis which brings out the pace and intellectual vigour of the play. The main themes are fully discussed, and the book also introduces readers to the issues that have divided critics, such as the extent to which the play responds to the historical events of the Peloponnesian War. The final chapter, which deals with the reception of the play, offers new insights into several modern works.

Goff's attractively produced interpretation of Euripides's troubling play provides a basic overview of the work's political context in fifth-century Athens, its characters, and the most important attempts to refashion it in the late twentieth century. As part of the Duckworth Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy series it is intended to guide students in engaging with basic problems posed by the text. The book breaks no new scholarly ground; as it should not; and it is wisely unencumbered by superfluous references, but in a clear, accessible text it sets forth some of the fundamental background issues needed to grasp Euripides's difficult work. Goff has provided a useful guide to the play, its performance contexts, and its 20th-century productions. A guide to recommended reading, and a seven-page bibliography add to its value for students. About the Author Barbara Goff is Professor of Classics, University of Reading. She is the author of "The Noose of Words" (1990) and "Citizen Bacchae: women's ritual practice in ancient Greece" (2004).