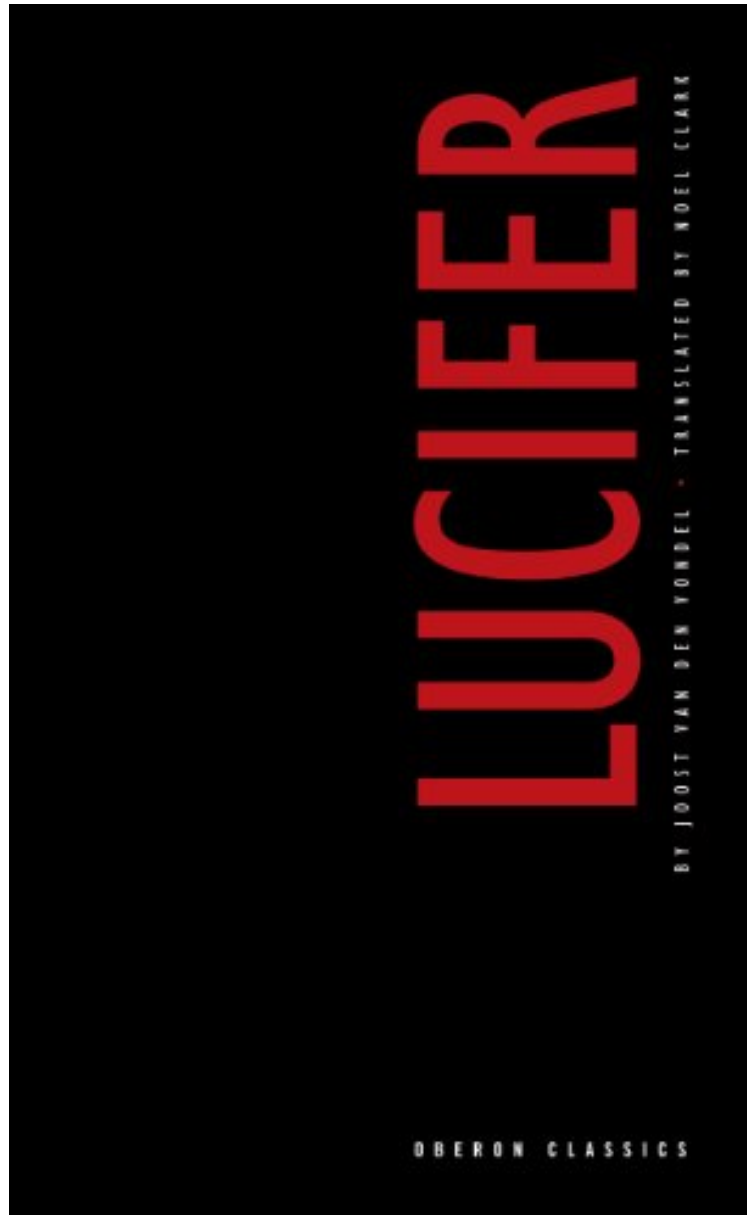


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## Lucifer (Absolute Classics)

*Joost Van De Vondel, Noel Clark*  
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**Joost Van De Vondel, Noel Clark : Lucifer (Absolute Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lucifer (Absolute Classics):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. What a shame that this has not been as revered in history!By A. BrittainVondel published this work decades before Milton published Paradise Lost. Granted Paradise Lost is an important treasure of English literature, it is a shame that has completely overshadowed Vondel's work to the point

that encyclopedias about angels glorify what Milton did in Paradise Lost but never mention Vondel at all. Like Milton, Vondel wrote about the fall of Lucifer. However, unlike Milton, who wrote his story as a poetic epic, Vondel wrote his version as a play. And as a play, the story is told with the limitations of the stage. HOWEVER, also unlike Milton, Vondel wrote his version from a more orthodox point of view, ground more in with traditional Biblical theology. Milton's work is saturated with heretical Arian ideas and sometimes flat out contradicts what little Biblical tradition that we have on this subject. In addition, Milton portrays his angels more as idiots, being easily deceived by Satan. However, even with the time limitations of a play, Vondel does do justice to all of the angels, rebel and loyalist. My personal favorite moment of this play is the debate between rebel and loyalist angels in Act 3. The way their argument was written was quick, and reading it made it feel like you were reading an actual argument. I can only imagine what it would be like to read this play in its original Dutch! As a translator, Clark did an excellent job of translating this work into a form of poetic English reminiscent of simplified Shakespearean prose. Again, as a play, this is a great piece of fiction. However, if you want to read a version of this story in the form of an epic, read Milton. I personally say you should read both.

An influential and controversial work by Joost van den Vondel (1587-1679), the colossus of Dutch literature, regarded as a major influence on Milton's Paradise Lost. An angel returns from Eden, his wings singed by the beauty of Adam and Eve's world, longing for the pleasures of their flesh.

'Noel Clark...almost persuades you Vondel could out-Milton Milton.' Guardian About the Author Joost van den Vondel (1587 - 1679) has been described as the Shakespeare of Holland. He is the author of thirty full-length dramas, Lucifer being generally regarded as the most accomplished. Noel Clark is a writer and broadcaster. His English verse-translation from Polish of the classic comedy Zemsta (Revenge) by Aleksander Fredro was broadcast by the BBC World Service.