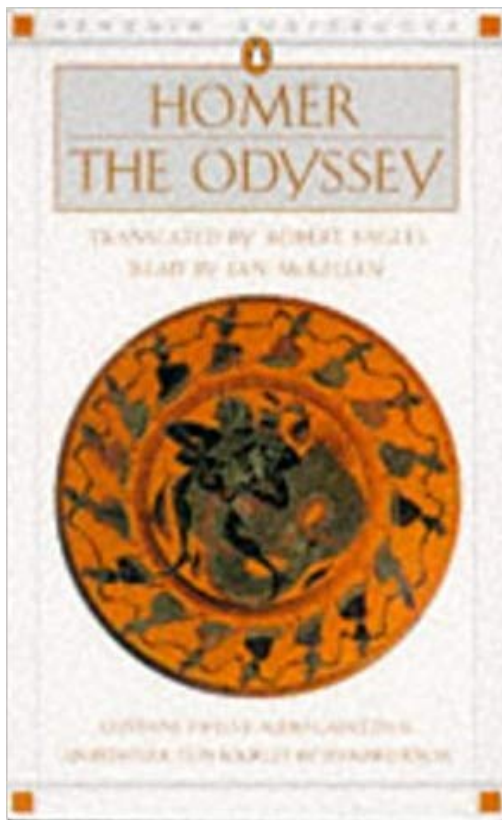


Homer / The Odyssey by Ian McKellen, Robert Fagles, Bernard Knox, Homer



DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



ISBN: 014086430X

ISBN13: 978-0140864304

Author: Ian McKellen, Robert Fagles, Bernard Knox, Homer

Book title: Homer / The Odyssey

Publisher: Penguin Audiobooks; Unabridged edition (November 1, 1996)

Language: English

Category: Poetry

Size PDF version: 1580 kb

Size ePUB version: 1857 kb

Size FB2 version: 1726 kb

Other formats: rtf lrf txt lrf

The award-winning translator of the Iliad and Oresteia introduces a new translation of Homer's age-old tale of the wanderings of Odysseus during his ten-year voyage back home to Ithaca after the Trojan War as he overcomes both divine and natural forces. Read by Patrick Stewart. Simultaneous.



Reviews of the Homer / The Odyssey by Ian McKellen, Robert Fagles, Bernard Knox, Homer

Usaxma

Homer's *Odyssey* was not written to be read on a page. In fact, it was not written on a page at all over much of its career. The *Odyssey* was designed for telling aloud. It sings. It rolls and rollicks along, or it burbles quietly, perhaps even seductively. Reader Ian McKellen and translator Robert Fagles understand all this very well, so well that you almost think the story is telling itself.

I've listened to this unabridged reading of Fagles' translation at least a dozen times, and I hope to hear it a hundred more. Though the reading takes many cassettes, there are stories and stories here, and though they flow from one to another, the tales are self-contained enough to listen to one by one. There is a chord or two of music between major sections, a stringed instrument fanfare to convince you that you've slipped back into the Bronze Age.

The accompanying booklet is useful and interesting, and I found the fold-up packaging to be secure and convenient.

I also own the Fagles *Iliad*, read by Derek Jacobi, and think it a wonderful example of Derek Jacobi reading Derek Jacobi --I could never get beyond half a tape. This version is also abridged (according to reviews, the audio publishers judged the world's best-known war story, or perhaps anti-war story, too violent for modern tastes and cut the worst, or best, of the gore.)

Jacobi also reads an abridged *Odyssey* and if you are debating which to buy, do try to listen to both the McKellen and the abridged version.

A copy of the Fagles translation might be a useful accompaniment, though it's hard to imagine that a buyer of the audio version wouldn't already have it.

White Nigga

This recording of the Robert Fagles translation of the *Odyssey*, while enjoyable in itself, provides a wonderful partner for the text. Sir Ian McKellan's performance is clear, offering a stimulating interpretation without "doing the police in voices." While McKellan is not slavishly faithful to Fagles' prosody, he captures Homer's energetic movement and clarity of depiction.

Undeyn

I write this on the heels of a review of the cassette version of Dante's *Inferno* in Pinsky's fine translation which was weakened by some so-so reading and disfigured by horrible between-canto sound effects. This is almost as annoying -- and it turns out to be from the same company, so no more Penguin audiobooks for me until I'm sure that they've cleaned up their act.

Fagles's translation is justly praised and needs no more encomiums from me. McKellen is a good, solid reader. His slightly growly voice as recorded here is no liability and he paces and expresses the reading well.

The production team, though, has once again rouged the Mona Lisa. Here, between books, there is some sort of awful discordant sound supposed to represent...what? Homer twisting his lyre into pieces and tuning a new one?

Also, there are some odd lapses. A few sound dropouts on the cassettes, a spot where it sounded as if an out-take (a mistaken repeat or a line with a dropped word) instead of the final take wound up in the issued copy.

The *Odyssey* is a long work and a lapse here and there is no big thing, but those awful noodlings coming back over and over again are hard to take. I would not recommend this set and regret that I bought it.

Yozshujind

Many of us (perhaps TOO many of us) were required to read at least ONE of the Great Works of Ancient Western Literature, like the Odyssey, the Iliad or (if we were lucky, the shortest one of the lot) Beowulf. Most of us hated the work because it was really, REALLY long and really, REALLY complicated. I mean, how many people still read and write in dactylic hexameter, or whatever the heck it is...?? Most of us have enough difficulty sloughing through the works of Shakespeare and his sonnets. So, I think it's fair to say that most of us have been at least EXPOSED to Homer, though we've likely not gotten much out of it.

It took a few centuries, but there is finally a translation that brings the story more up-to-date for modern audiences. The translator, Mr. Fagles, has done away with the rhyming scheme of the original and instead put the text into a more readable format of sentences and paragraphs. This move alone has made the story more readable than any other translation I've attempted (and it should be noted, even at 13 hours on audio, this is the first translation of Homer I've been able to understand and, more importantly, *finish*). Expressions of gratitude also go out to him for reducing the amount of "thus'es and "heretofore"s and other elements of ancient speech that are commonly found in Greek translations. While I did notice that he sometimes used very modern words like "potluck", it is this very modernization that allowed me to more fully get into the text and comprehend it.

I therefore disagree with a friend of mine, a Classics professor, who says that Fagles is "dumbing down" Homer's work by making it more readable ("Homer is NOT Stephen King! It's a story that's over 2,800 years old!! Of COURSE it's going to be difficult to read!", he grumped). As a writer, storyteller and teacher of English writing and reading, my feelings are that if you have lost your audience, then you might as well be writing to the rocks and trees-the purpose of a story is to be told and UNDERSTOOD; if the audience doesn't understand you, then what have you got? Nothing! So, while I concede that Mr. Fagles might have taken some liberties with the translation and style by making it narrative text vs. poetic -meter, I believe it has only served to enhance the story so much more.

Much of the Odyssey, of course, are stories and retellings of the great deeds of the hero, Odysseus, who set forth from his native land of Ithaca to do the sorts of things that heroes do, mostly conquer armies. Odysseus of course becomes shipwrecked and endures a number of different adventures, including the Island of the Lotus-Eaters, Polyphemus the one-eyed Cyclops, and the destructive singing of the Sirens. Meanwhile, at home his wife, Penelope, awaits his return while suitors take over the kingdom and try to win her affections, devouring the goods of the realm in the process. For a modern audience with all the convenient of CD-ROM's, the Internet, cable TV and whatnot, the repetitive nature of The Odyssey might grow a bit dull and tiresome if one were to read the whole thing in print, but thanks to the stellar voice talents of Ian McKellen, I breezed through the 12 cassettes in an astoundingly short time, so drawn in was I by his voice. His soothing tones, rising and falling with the action, pausing here, growing louder there as some battle is raged, is so perfectly matched to the text that you can easily picture him sitting there in some ancient stone hall telling the story as if it were his own and Odysseus his best friend. I was not bored for an instant with him as my narrator and guide through this ancient story, and I can't recommend this audio version highly enough.

In closing, the tapes are packaged with a short but informative and densely written book by Mr. Bernard Knox. Admittedly, I didn't use or refer to this book often, being more interested in just the story itself than all of the infinite details.

An astounding feat of translation, performance and research!! Highly, HIGHLY recommended!!

Kesalard

You know the story, but you have NEVER heard it like this before! Ian McKellen brings The Odyssey to life with his extraordinary gift. Fagles' translation is superior to any other I've found. Together they have breathed so much life and beauty into this ancient story that there were some passages I listened to again and again. What a lovely, lovely experience.

Related PDF to [Homer / The Odyssey](#) by Ian McKellen, Robert Fagles, Bernard Knox, Homer

[Sailing Home: Using Homer's Odyssey to Navigate Life's Perils and Pitfalls by Norman Fischer](#)

[The Odyssey by Odds Bodkin, Homer](#)

[The Iliad \(Penguin Classics\) by Robert Fagles, Bernard Knox, Homer](#)

[The Odyssey by John Flaxman, Homer](#)

[Homer by Jasper Griffin](#)

[The Odyssey by Professor Robert Fagles, Bernard MacGregor Walke Knox, Homer](#)

[The Odyssey \(The World's Classics\) by Walter Shewring, G. S. Kirk, Homer](#)

[The Odyssey: Selected Adventures by Homer, Konrad Hack, Diana Stewart](#)