



Metamorphoses (Norton Critical Editions)

By Ovid

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In his award-winning translation, Charles Martin combines fidelity to Ovid's text with verse that catches the speed and liveliness of the original.

Ovid's epic poem?whose theme of change has resonated throughout the ages?is one of the most important texts of Western imagination, an inspiration from Dante's time to the present, when writers such as Salman Rushdie and Italo Calvino have found a living source in Ovid's work. The text is accompanied by a preface, *A Note on the Translation*, and detailed explanatory annotations.

“Sources and Backgrounds” includes Seneca’s inspired commentary on Ovid, Charles Martin’s essay on the ways in which pantomimic dancing?an art form popular in Ovid’s time?may have been the model for *Metamorphoses*, as well as related works by Virgil, Callimachus, Hesiod, and Lucretius, among others.

From the enormous body of scholarly writing on *Metamorphoses*, Charles Martin has chosen six major interpretations by Bernard Knox, J. R. R. Mackail, Norman O. Brown, Italo Calvino, Frederick Ahl, and Diane Middlebrook.

A Glossary of Persons, Places, and Personifications in the *Metamorphoses* and a Chronology and Selected Bibliography are also included.

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Metamorphoses (Norton Critical Editions) By Ovid Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #212859 in Books
- Brand: Ovid/ Martin, Charles (EDT)
- Published on: 2009-11-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.40" h x 1.20" w x 5.10" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 592 pages

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Review

"Smoothly readable, accurate, charming, subtle yet clear.... A lucidly fluent version of this most flowing of poems."

About the Author

Charles Martin is a poet, critic, and translator. His translation of Ovid's Metamorphoses received the Harold Morton Landon Award from the Academy of American Poets in 2004. In 2005, he received an Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is the author of Signs & Wonders and Starting from Sleep: New and Selected Poems.

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