

# **oedipus the king full text**

Oedipus the King Full Text: Exploring the Timeless Tragedy of Sophocles

**oedipus the king full text** represents one of the most enduring and influential works in the canon of classical literature. This ancient Greek tragedy, penned by Sophocles around 429 BC, continues to captivate readers and audiences with its complex characters, profound themes, and dramatic tension. Delving into the full text of Oedipus the King offers not only a glimpse into the origins of Western drama but also an exploration of fate, free will, and the human condition. In this article, we will navigate through the essential elements of the play, the significance of accessing the full text, and how it remains relevant in modern times.

## **Understanding Oedipus the King Full Text**

When you engage with the oedipus the king full text, you encounter the complete narrative of King Oedipus's tragic journey. The story centers on Oedipus, the King of Thebes, who seeks to rid his city of a devastating plague. As he investigates the source of this calamity, he gradually uncovers truths about his own identity and past that lead to a devastating self-revelation. The full text reveals the intricate plot, the rich dialogues, and the powerful catharsis that define classical tragedy.

## **The Importance of Reading the Full Text**

Reading the oedipus the king full text in its entirety offers several advantages. Firstly, it allows one to appreciate Sophocles' masterful use of language and dramatic devices, such as irony and foreshadowing. Secondly, understanding the full narrative arc—rather than just summaries or excerpts—deepens the emotional impact and philosophical reflections embedded in the play. Lastly, access to the complete text aids scholars, students, and enthusiasts in analyzing the work for academic or personal purposes, ensuring interpretations are grounded in Sophocles' original vision.

## **Key Themes Explored in Oedipus the King**

Sophocles' tragedy is rich with themes that resonate across cultures and centuries. The oedipus the king full text showcases these themes in their most potent form, making it essential for anyone interested in classical literature or tragic storytelling.

## **Fate vs. Free Will**

One of the most compelling aspects of the play is the tension between fate and free will. Oedipus's attempt to outrun the prophecy—that he would kill his father and marry his mother—only leads him directly into fulfilling it. The full text illustrates how fate is an inescapable force, despite human efforts to change destiny. This theme invites readers to contemplate the limits of human control and the nature of predestination.

## **Blindness and Sight**

The motif of blindness is central to the play, both literally and metaphorically. Oedipus's physical sight contrasts with his lack of insight into his true origins. Conversely, the blind prophet Tiresias can see the truth clearly. This interplay between knowledge and ignorance is dramatically portrayed throughout the full text, deepening the tragedy's psychological complexity.

## **The Role of Leadership and Responsibility**

Oedipus is portrayed as a strong, decisive leader who cares deeply for his city. His quest to save Thebes from the plague demonstrates his commitment to duty. However, his downfall also raises questions about the consequences of leadership and the burden of responsibility, themes that remain relevant in political and social discussions today.

## **Where to Find the Oedipus the King Full Text**

For those eager to read the full play, numerous resources offer access to Sophocles' masterpiece, often free of charge.

### **Online Platforms and Digital Libraries**

Several reputable websites provide the Oedipus the King full text in various formats, including:

- **Project Gutenberg:** Offers a public domain translation accessible for free download.
- **Perseus Digital Library:** Features the original Greek alongside English translations, useful for comparative study.

- **Internet Classics Archive:** Presents readable versions optimized for screen reading.

## **Printed Editions and Translations**

While digital versions are convenient, many readers prefer printed editions that include scholarly introductions, annotations, and critical essays. Notable translations by Robert Fagles, E.V. Rieu, and others bring varied interpretative nuances to the text. Choosing a translation depends on whether you seek poetic elegance, literal accuracy, or contemporary readability.

## **Tips for Engaging with the Oedipus the King Full Text**

Reading a classical Greek tragedy can be challenging, but with the right approach, it becomes an enriching experience.

### **Understand the Historical and Cultural Context**

Familiarizing yourself with Ancient Greek society, mythology, and theatrical conventions enhances comprehension. Knowing why oracles, prophecies, and the gods' role were vital to the story helps decode the deeper meanings in the text.

### **Annotate and Reflect**

As you progress through the oedipus the king full text, take notes on significant passages, symbols, and character motivations. Reflecting on these elements encourages active reading and critical thinking.

### **Watch Performances or Adaptations**

Viewing stage productions or film adaptations can bring the narrative to life and offer interpretive perspectives that enrich your understanding of the text. Adaptations often highlight different themes or character traits worth considering.

# **The Enduring Legacy of Oedipus the King Full Text**

The impact of the Oedipus the King full text extends far beyond its initial performance in ancient Athens. It serves as a foundational text in literature, psychology, and philosophy.

## **Influence on Literature and Drama**

Sophocles' work has shaped the structure and themes of countless tragedies that followed. Its exploration of human nature, fate, and identity continues to inspire writers and playwrights worldwide.

## **The Oedipus Complex and Psychological Insight**

The play's protagonist gave name to Sigmund Freud's famous psychological theory—the Oedipus complex—highlighting the work's profound influence beyond literature into psychoanalysis and human behavior studies.

## **Modern Relevance**

Contemporary audiences find that the Oedipus the King full text still speaks to universal experiences—searching for truth, confronting uncomfortable realities, and grappling with the consequences of one's actions. These timeless concerns ensure the play's place in education and culture for generations to come.

Exploring the full text of Oedipus the King opens a window into a world where fate and human agency collide with devastating consequences. Whether for academic study or personal enrichment, immersing oneself in this classic tragedy offers insights into the complexities of human nature and the enduring power of storytelling.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where can I find the full text of 'Oedipus the King' by Sophocles?**

The full text of 'Oedipus the King' by Sophocles is available on various online platforms such as Project Gutenberg, the Perseus Digital Library, and other free literature websites.

## **What is the main theme of 'Oedipus the King'?**

'Oedipus the King' primarily explores themes of fate versus free will, the limits of human knowledge, and the consequences of hubris.

## **Is there an English translation of the full text of 'Oedipus the King'?**

Yes, there are multiple English translations of 'Oedipus the King,' including those by Robert Fagles, Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald, and E.V. Rieu, many of which are accessible online.

## **What is the significance of the Chorus in the full text of 'Oedipus the King'?**

The Chorus in 'Oedipus the King' serves as the voice of the Theban elders, providing background information, reacting to the unfolding events, and reflecting on the moral and thematic elements of the play.

## **How long is the full text of 'Oedipus the King'?**

The full text of 'Oedipus the King' is typically around 3,500 to 4,000 lines depending on the translation, and can take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to perform.

## **Can I download a PDF of the full text of 'Oedipus the King'?**

Yes, many websites offer downloadable PDFs of 'Oedipus the King' for free, including Project Gutenberg and various educational resources.

## **What is the plot summary of the full text of 'Oedipus the King'?**

'Oedipus the King' tells the story of King Oedipus of Thebes as he seeks to rid the city of a plague. In the process, he discovers that he has unwittingly fulfilled a prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother, leading to tragic consequences.

## **Additional Resources**

**\*\*Exploring the Depths of Oedipus the King Full Text: A Timeless Tragedy\*\***

**oedipus the king full text** remains one of the most studied and revered works in classical literature, offering readers, scholars, and theatre enthusiasts an unfiltered experience of Sophocles' tragic masterpiece. This ancient Greek

play, originally performed in the 5th century BCE, continues to intrigue audiences with its complex characters, intricate plot, and profound themes of fate, free will, and human suffering. Accessing the full text of *Oedipus the King* not only allows for a deeper appreciation of its literary artistry but also provides insight into the enduring questions about identity, morality, and destiny that have captivated minds for centuries.

## **Understanding Oedipus the King Full Text in Context**

The *Oedipus the King full text* is often examined within the framework of Greek tragedy, where the narrative structure, character development, and thematic depth converge to create a compelling dramatic experience. Sophocles' use of language, symbolism, and dramatic irony is best appreciated when one engages with the complete text rather than abridged versions or summaries. The full text reveals the meticulous construction of the plot, which follows Oedipus, the King of Thebes, as he seeks to uncover the truth about the plague afflicting his city – a journey that leads to devastating revelations about his own origins and actions.

The availability of the full text also enables modern readers to explore the original dialogues, choruses, and stage directions that are sometimes lost in translations or adaptations. This comprehensive access supports academic study, theatrical productions, and personal exploration, ensuring that the nuances of Sophocles' language and thematic intentions are preserved.

## **Thematic Richness in the Full Text**

One of the primary reasons to consult the *Oedipus the King full text* is to fully engage with its multifaceted themes. The tragedy explores the tension between fate and free will, questioning whether human beings can escape predetermined outcomes. Oedipus, despite his efforts to avoid the prophecy that he will kill his father and marry his mother, inadvertently fulfills it. This paradox invites readers to reflect on the limits of human agency and the power of destiny.

Furthermore, the themes of sight and blindness operate metaphorically throughout the play. Oedipus's physical sight contrasts with his metaphorical blindness to the truth, a motif that is dramatically potent when experienced through the original text's vivid imagery and dialogue. The full text also highlights the role of knowledge and ignorance, justice, and the consequences of pride, making the tragedy a profound meditation on the human condition.

# Significance of Accessing the Oedipus the King Full Text

For educators, students, and theatre practitioners, having access to the \*Oedipus the King full text\* is indispensable. It provides a foundational resource for understanding ancient Greek drama's conventions and the cultural milieu from which this masterpiece emerged. The unabridged text allows for detailed analysis of character motivations, linguistic choices, and the play's structural elements, such as the prologue, episodes, stasimon, and exodus.

## Comparative Insights: Full Text vs. Adaptations

While numerous adaptations and modern reinterpretations of \*Oedipus the King\* exist, including films, novels, and theatrical productions, these often alter or simplify the original narrative to suit contemporary tastes or formats. The \*full text\* remains the authoritative source, preserving Sophocles' intended pacing, tone, and tragic impact.

Adaptations may emphasize certain themes – for example, Freudian psychoanalysis famously took inspiration from the Oedipus myth – but the full text offers a balanced portrayal that invites multiple interpretations. Scholars often compare the original with adaptations to understand how cultural contexts influence the reception and portrayal of the tragedy.

## Features of the Oedipus the King Full Text

- **\*\*Complete Dialogue and Chorus\*\***: The full text presents all spoken lines by characters and the chorus, essential for understanding the emotional and narrative flow.
- **\*\*Original Structure\*\***: Readers encounter the traditional Greek tragedy format, including prologue, parodos (entrance of the chorus), episodes, stasima (choral odes), and exodus.
- **\*\*Dramatic Irony\*\***: The full text maximizes the effect of dramatic irony, where the audience knows more than Oedipus himself, intensifying the tension.
- **\*\*Philosophical and Ethical Questions\*\***: The text explores deep questions about human nature, morality, and the divine order.
- **\*\*Language and Poetic Devices\*\***: Sophocles' use of meter, metaphor, and imagery is preserved, offering insight into ancient Greek poetic traditions.

## Where to Find the Oedipus the King Full Text

The accessibility of \*Oedipus the King full text\* has greatly improved with

digital libraries, academic databases, and open-access websites dedicated to classical literature. Reliable sources include:

- **Perseus Digital Library:** Offers Greek texts alongside English translations, useful for comparative reading.
- **Project Gutenberg:** Provides free downloadable versions of the play in various translations.
- **University Websites:** Many institutions host full texts with scholarly annotations, enhancing comprehension.
- **Print Editions:** Scholarly editions from publishers like Oxford Classical Texts or Loeb Classical Library include critical commentary.

Choosing a version depends on the reader's purpose—whether for casual reading, academic study, or theatrical preparation. Some editions prioritize fidelity to the original Greek, while others focus on readability.

## Pros and Cons of Using the Full Text for Study

### 1. Pros:

- In-depth understanding of the play's language and themes.
- Preservation of Sophocles' original dramatic structure.
- Ability to analyze textual nuances and stylistic devices.
- Facilitates comprehensive academic research and interpretation.

### 2. Cons:

- May be challenging for readers unfamiliar with ancient Greek culture and language.
- Older translations can feel archaic or less accessible.
- Length and complexity may deter casual readers.



# Oedipus the King Full Text: Influence and Legacy

The \*Oedipus the King full text\* has left an indelible mark on literature, philosophy, psychology, and the arts. Its narrative has inspired countless works across centuries, from Renaissance dramas to modern psychoanalytic theory. The play's exploration of tragic fate and human suffering resonates universally, making it a cornerstone of Western literary heritage.

By engaging directly with the full text, readers unlock layers of meaning that have shaped interpretations of tragedy and human psychology. The play's enduring relevance is a testament to Sophocles' genius and the power of the written word to transcend time.

Accessing the \*Oedipus the King full text\* is thus more than an academic exercise—it is an invitation to confront fundamental questions about identity, truth, and the forces that govern human life, all embedded within one of the greatest tragedies ever penned.

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**oedipus the king full text:** *Oedipus the King* Sophocles, 2012-12-18 The famed Athenian tragedy in which Oedipus's own faults contribute to his tragic downfall. A great masterpiece on

which Aristotle based his aesthetic theory of drama in the Poetics and from which Freud derived the Oedipus complex, King Oedipus puts out a sentence on the unknown murderer of his father Laius. By a gradual unfolding of incidents, Oedipus learns that he was the assassin and that Jocasta, his wife, is also his mother. This Enriched Classic Edition includes: -A concise introduction that gives readers important background information -Timelines of significant events in Greek history and theater that provide the book's historical context -An outline of key themes and plot points to help readers form their own interpretations -Detailed explanatory notes -Critical analysis and modern perspectives on the work -Discussion questions to promote lively classroom and book group interaction -A list of recommended related books and films to broaden the reader's experience Enriched Classics offers readers affordable editions of great works of literature enhanced by helpful notes and insightful commentary. The scholarship provided in Enriched Classics enables readers to appreciate, understand, and enjoy the world's finest books to their full potential. Series edited by Cynthia Brantley Johnson

**oedipus the king full text:** The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles Sophocles, 1996-05-01 A collection that includes the complete texts of Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone—translated by Paul Roche. Revising and updating his classic 1958 translation, Paul Roche captures the dramatic power and intensity, the subtleties of meaning, and the explosive emotions of Sophocles' great Theban trilogy. In vivid, poetic language, he presents the timeless story of a noble family moving toward catastrophe, dragged down from wealth and power by pride, cursed with incest, suicide, and murder. William Carlos Williams called the Roche translation of Antigone "brilliantly successful...as spirited and powerful as the original must have been." Roche's versions of the Oedipus plays are both stunning and sympathetic, awe-inspiring and intimate, and bring the elemental myths of ancient Greece to life for modern readers. Included in this edition are a glossary of classical names, notes on pronunciation and meter, suggestions for production and acting, and historical material, which offer the reader a greater appreciation of Sophocles' dramatic genius.

**oedipus the king full text:** *Found in Translation* J. Michael Walton, 2006-07-06 In considering the practice and theory of translating Classical Greek plays into English from a theatrical perspective, *Found in Translation*, first published in 2006, also addresses the wider issues of transferring any piece of theatre from a source into a target language. The history of translating classical tragedy and comedy, here fully investigated, demonstrates how through the ages translators have, wittingly or unwittingly, appropriated Greek plays and made them reflect socio-political concerns of their own era. Chapters are devoted to topics including verse and prose, mask and non-verbal language, stage directions and subtext and translating the comic. Among the plays discussed as 'case studies' are Aeschylus' Agamemnon, Sophocles' Oedipus Tyrannus and Euripides' Medea and Alceste. The book concludes with a consideration of the boundaries between 'translation' and 'adaptation', followed by an appendix of every translation of Greek tragedy and comedy into English from the 1550s to the present day.

**oedipus the king full text:** *Sophocles' King Oedipus* Sophocles, 2002 This is an English translation of Sophocles' famous tragedy of Oedipus and the fate he so much tries to avoid. Focus Classical Library provides close translations with notes and essays to provide access to understanding Greek culture.

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of classical names, notes on pronunciation and meter, suggestions for production and acting, and historical material, which offer the reader a greater appreciation of Sophocles' dramatic genius.

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**oedipus the king full text: Sophocles: Oedipus the King** P. J. Finglass, 2018-04-05 For centuries the myth of Oedipus, the man who unwittingly killed his father and married his mother, has exerted a powerful hold on the human imagination; but no retelling of that myth has ever come close, in passion, drama, and menace to the one that we find in Sophocles' Oedipus the King. This new full-scale edition of that classic play - the first in any language since 1883 - offers a freshly constituted text based on consultation of manuscripts ancient and mediaeval. The introduction explores the play's dating and production, its creative engagement with pre-Sophoclean versions, its major themes, and its reception during antiquity. The commentary offers a detailed analysis, line by line and scene by scene, of the play's language, staging, and dramatic impact. The translation incorporated into the commentary ensures that the book will be accessible to all readers interested in what is arguably the greatest Greek tragedy of all.

**oedipus the king full text: The Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation** Peter France, 2000 Translation has been a crucial process in world culture over the past two millennia and more. In the English-speaking cultures many of the most important texts are translations, from Homer to Beckett, the Bible to Freud. Although recent years have seen a boom in translation studies, there has been no comprehensive yet convenient guide to this essential element of literature in English. Written by eminent scholars from many countries, the Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation meets this need and will be essential reading for all students of English and comparative literature. It highlights the place of translation in our culture, encouraging awareness of the issues raised, making the translator more visible. Concentrating on major writers and works, it covers translations out of many languages, from Greek to Korean, from Swahili to Russian. For some works (e.g. Virgil's Aeneid) which have been much translated, the discussion is historical and critical, showing how translation has evolved over the centuries and bringing out the differences between versions. Elsewhere, with less familiar literatures, the Guide examines the extent to which translation has done justice to the range of work available. The Guide is divided into two parts. Part I contains substantial essays on theoretical questions, a pioneering outline of the history of translation into English, and discussions of the problems raised by specific types of text (e.g. poetry, oral literature). The second, much longer, part consists of entries grouped by language of origin; some are devoted to individual texts (e.g. the Thousand and One Nights) or writers (e.g. Ibsen, Proust), but the majority offer a critical overview of a genre (e.g. Chinese poetry, Spanish Golden Age drama) or of a national literature (e.g. Hungarian, Scottish Gaelic). There is a selective bibliography for each entry and an index of authors and translators.

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**oedipus the king full text: English Translations from the Greek** Finley Melville Kendall Foster, 1918 A bibliography of English translations, from the establishment of Caxton's printing press in 1476 to the early 20th century, of Ancient Greek texts to 200 A.D.

**oedipus the king full text: Tradition, Translation, Trauma** Jan Parker, Janet Elaine Parker, Timothy Mathews, 2011-06-30 A collection of essays by a team of distinguished international contributors concerned with how Classic - mainly Greek and Latin but also Arabic and Portuguese - texts become present in later cultures; how they are passed on, received and affect over time and

space, and how they resonate in the modern.

**oedipus the king full text:** Translation and the Languages of Modernism S. Yao, 2016-04-30 This study examines the practice and functions of literary translation in Anglo-American Modernism. Rather than approaching translation as a trans-historical procedure for reproducing semantic meaning between different languages, Yao discusses how Modernist writers both conceived and employed translation as a complex strategy for accomplishing such feats as exploring the relationship between gender and poetry, creating an authentic national culture and determining the nature of a just government, all of which in turn led to developments in both poetic and novelistic form. Thus, translation emerges in this study as a literary practice crucial to the very development of Anglo-American Modernism.

**oedipus the king full text:** Translation and Modernism Emily O. Wittman, 2023-12-08 This innovative volume extends existing conversations on translation and modernism with an eye toward bringing renewed attention to its ethically complex, appropriative nature and the subsequent ways in which modernist translators become co-creators of the materials they translate. Wittman builds on existing work at the intersection of the two fields to offer a more dynamic, nuanced, and wider lens on translation and modernism. The book draws on scholarship from descriptive translation studies, polysystems theory, and literary translation to explore modernist translators' appropriation of source texts and their continuous recalibrations of equivalence between source text and translation. Chapters focus on translation projects from a range of writers, including Beckett, Garnett, Lawrence, Mansfield, and Rhys, with a particular spotlight on how women's translations and women translators' innovations were judged more critically than those of their male counterparts. Taken together, the volume puts forth a fresh perspective on translation and modernism and of the role of the modernist translator as co-creator in the translation process. This book will be of particular interest to scholars in translation studies, modernism, reception theory, and gender studies.

**oedipus the king full text:** Classics in Translation Paul Lachlan MacKendrick, Herbert Marshall Howe, 1952 Annotation Here, translated into modern idiom, are many works of the authors whose ideas have constituted the mainstream of classical thought. This volume of new translations was born of necessity, to answer the needs of a course in Greek and Roman culture offered by the Department of Integrated Liberal Studies at the University of Wisconsin. Since its original publication in 1952, *Classics in Translation* has been adopted by many different academic institutions to fill similar needs of their undergraduate students. This new printing is further evidence of this collection's general acceptance by teachers, students, and the reviewing critics.

**oedipus the king full text:** The Globe in Print Stephen Orgel, 2024-06-24 How did the popular drama of Shakespeare's age become literature? Every work that has survived from the theater of past ages has gone through some editorial process to make it available to readers. The book of the play is not the play on the stage; returning it to the stage for modern audiences is not a simple or straightforward process, nor can we simply read backwards from the texts that have come down to us to deduce what Shakespeare's or Jonson's (or Aristophanes's or Sophocles's) audiences saw. Editorial efforts since the first folio of 1623 have attempted to establish a correct, final text of Shakespeare's plays, as the folio promises the true, original copies. Yet the text in the theater changed constantly, as the actors adapted the plays to take into account their changing audiences. The publisher of the folio of Beaumont and Fletcher's plays in 1647 acknowledges that his texts include more than the plays on the stage--all that was acted and all that was not. In performance, the play at the Globe was not the play at court, nor was any play the same when it was revived in a subsequent season. Moreover, performances always involved improvisation on the part of the actors, and the continual response (often vocal and energetic) of the audience. This book is about what happens to plays when they become books.

**oedipus the king full text:** The Greek Plays Sophocles, Aeschylus, Euripides, 2017-09-05 A landmark anthology of the masterpieces of Greek drama, featuring all-new, highly accessible translations of some of the world's most beloved plays, including *Agamemnon*, *Prometheus Bound*, *Bacchae*, *Electra*, *Medea*, *Antigone*, and *Oedipus the King* Featuring translations by Emily Wilson,

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**oedipus the king full text:** *Translation/Transformation* Dana Birksted-Breen, 2021-03-08 Translation is at the heart of psychoanalysis: from unconscious to conscious, experience to verbal expression, internal to enacted, dream thought to dream image, language to interpretation, unrepresented to represented and transference of past to present. The book’s first part discusses the question of translation, literal and metaphoric. Both linguistic and cultural translations are closely tied to specific and significant personalities who were involved in the early history of psychoanalysis and thus in the development of the IJP. There was a close relationship between the IJP and the visual arts via the Bloomsbury Group. The link between the visual arts and the IJP is indeed to be found in its logo, which is taken from a painting by Ingres. The second part of the book approaches transformations between psychoanalysis and the arts from conscious, unconscious and non-represented elements into non-verbal modes, specifically visual, poetic and musical; it also looks at the developments and transformations in psychoanalytic ideas about artistic expression as expressed within the pages of the IJP. This book will be of great interest to psychoanalysts and psychotherapists, and to those interested in the history of psychoanalysis and the IJP.

**oedipus the king full text: Sophocles** Jacques Jouanna, 2022-01-11 Here, for the first time in English, is celebrated French classicist Jacques Jouanna's magisterial account of the life and work of Sophocles. Exhaustive and authoritative, this acclaimed book combines biography and detailed studies of Sophocles' plays, all set in the rich context of classical Greek tragedy and the political, social, religious, and cultural world of Athens's greatest age, the fifth century. Sophocles was the commanding figure of his day. The author of *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*, he was not only the leading dramatist but also a distinguished politician, military commander, and religious figure. And yet the evidence about his life has, until now, been fragmentary. Reconstructing a lost literary world, Jouanna has finally assembled all the available information, culled from inscriptions, archaeological evidence, and later sources. He also offers a huge range of new interpretations, from his emphasis on the significance of Sophocles' political and military offices (previously often seen as honorary) to his analysis of Sophocles' plays in the mythic and literary context of fifth-century drama. Written for scholars, students, and general readers, this book will interest anyone who wants to know more

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