



# The Iliad: A New Translation by Caroline Alexander

By Homer, Caroline Alexander

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**The Iliad: A New Translation by Caroline Alexander** By Homer, Caroline Alexander

**With her virtuoso translation, classicist and bestselling author Caroline Alexander brings to life Homer's timeless epic of the Trojan War**

Composed around 730 B.C., Homer's *Iliad* recounts the events of a few momentous weeks in the protracted ten-year war between the invading Achaeans, or Greeks, and the Trojans in their besieged city of Ilion. From the explosive confrontation between Achilles, the greatest warrior at Troy, and Agamemnon, the inept leader of the Greeks, through to its tragic conclusion, *The Iliad* explores the abiding, blighting facts of war.

Soldier and civilian, victor and vanquished, hero and coward, men, women, young, old—*The Iliad* evokes in poignant, searing detail the fate of every life ravaged by the Trojan War. And, as told by Homer, this ancient tale of a particular Bronze Age conflict becomes a sublime and sweeping evocation of the destruction of war throughout the ages.

Carved close to the original Greek, acclaimed classicist Caroline Alexander's new translation is swift and lean, with the driving cadence of its source—a translation epic in scale and yet devastating in its precision and power.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“True to the living word of the original Greek, Caroline Alexander’s new translation invites us to engage directly with this tradition. When I read her verses I can almost hear the music of Homeric performance.” (Gregory Nagy, Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and professor of comparative literature, director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University)

“Caroline Alexander has done admirably in rendering the meaning of the Homeric text faithfully and in suitably dignified language. The format gives a genuine sense of reading a verse epic. Her line-numbers match the Greek, which will make this version convenient for use by college teachers and students.” (M.L. West, Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford)

“Caroline Alexander’s *Iliad* is miraculous . . . Its language conveys the precise meaning of the Greek in a sinewy yet propulsive style . . . In my judgment, this new translation is far superior to the familiar and admired work of Lattimore, Fitzgerald, and Fagles.” (G.W. Bowersock, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)

“This powerful and readable version of the *Iliad* is modern without sacrificing the accuracy, energy, or the seriousness of the original.” (Library Journal)

#### From the Back Cover

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#### About the Author

Although recognized as one of the greatest ancient Greek poets, the life and figure of Homer remains shrouded in mystery. Credited with the authorship of the epic poems *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Homer, if he existed, is believed to have lived during the ninth century BC, and has been identified variously as a Babylonian, an Ithacan, or an Ionian. Regardless of his citizenship, Homer’s poems and speeches played a key role in shaping Greek culture, and Homeric studies remains one of the oldest continuous areas of scholarship, reaching from antiquity through to modern times.

Caroline Alexander is the author of the international bestsellers *The Endurance* and *The Bounty* and, more recently, *The War That Killed Achilles: The True Story of the Trojan War*. She is a contributing writer for *National Geographic* magazine and her work has also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Smithsonian*,

and *Outside*, among other publications. Alexander received her doctorate in classics from Columbia University and was the founder of the Department of Classics at the University of Malawi in East Africa.

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