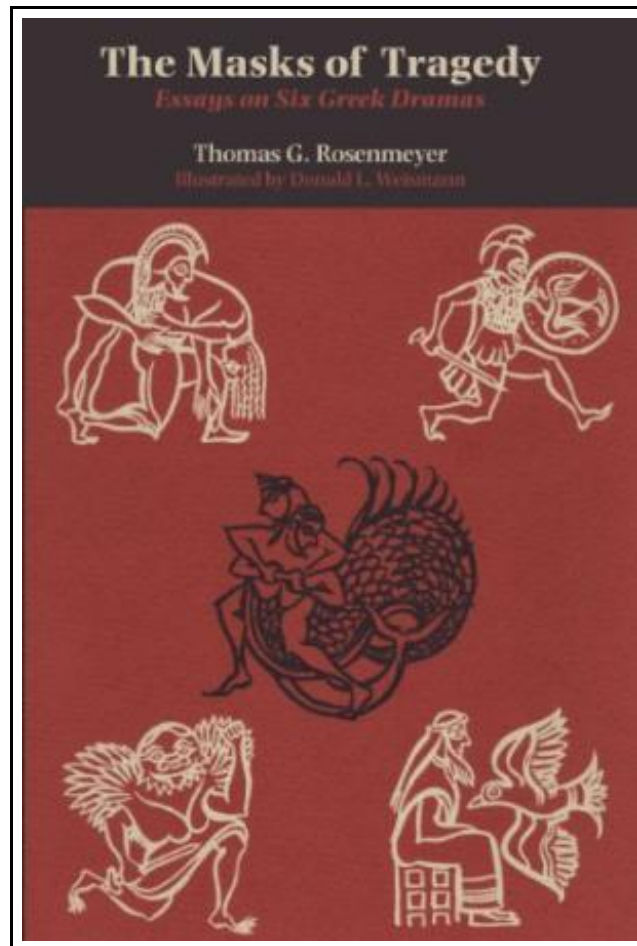


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THE MASKS OF TRAGEDY: ESSAYS ON SIX GREEK DRAMAS



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University of Texas Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. What matters about a play is not the extent to which it is like any other play, but the way in which it is different, writes Thomas G. Rosenmeyer. This is, I suggest, how the ancient audiences received the performances. My purpose, then, in writing these essays is twofold: .to devote enough space to the discussion of each play to allow its special tone and texture to emerge without hindrance and at leisure .and to include in one collection analyses of plays so different from one another that the accent will come to rest on the variety of the tragic experience rather than on any one narrowly defined norm. Greek tragedy is a vehicle for many different ideas and many different intentions. From the wealth of material that has come down to us the author has chosen six plays for analysis. He reminds us that the plays were written to be seen and heard, and only secondarily to be studied. The listeners expected each play to have a specific objective, and to exhibit its own mood. These the author attempts to recover for us, by listening to what each play, in its own right, has to say. His principal concern is with the tragic diction and the tragic ideas, designed to release certain massive responses in the large theater-going group of ancient Athens. In exploring the characters and the situations of the plays he has chosen, the author transports his reader to the world of fifth-century B.C. Greece, and establishes the relevance of that world to our own experience. The essays are not introductory in nature. No space is given, for instance, to basic information about the playwrights, the history...



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