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Antigone

Sophocles (c. 497/496 BC – c. 406/405 BC)

Version 1

Translated by: Francis Storr
Type: Dramatic reading
Read by: Cast
Length: 1 hour 14 minutes
Language: English
Genre(s): Drama, tragedy

Version 2

Translated by: Edward Hayes Plumptre
Type: Solo reading
Read by: Expatriate
Length: 1 hour 19 minutes
Language: English
Genre(s): Drama, tragedy

Product Formats and Options

Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1286	0682550991023	\$9.99
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Antigone is the third and last of Sophocles' Theban plays based on the legend of Oedipus and Jocasta. We begin after the death of Oedipus as his two sons Eteocles and Polynices wage a civil war for the kingship. Both die in battle and Creon, their successor, rules that the King Eteocles will be buried and Polynices, challenger to the throne, will be left to rot on the battlefield. Antigone, daughter of Oedipus, defies Creon's order to give her brother a proper burial. She is caught and condemned to be buried alive. Her fiancé, Creon's son Haemon, tries to dissuade his father, to no avail. The blind prophet Tiresias appears and reports that the gods are not

happy. He eventually persuades Creon that the gods want Polynices buried and that all of Greece will despise Creon if he persists. He relents, but too late. Antigone has hung herself; Haemon found her and killed himself; Creon's wife did the same when she learned about her son. The play is a model of classic Greek tragedy and raises issues of law and morality that resonate today after over two thousand years.

Sophocles (c. 497/496 BC – c. 406/405 BC) was a Greek playwright whose work, along with that of Aeschylus and Euripides, define the genre of ancient Greek tragedy. He wrote over 120 plays, of which seven survive: *Ajax*, *Antigone*, *Women of Trachis*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Electra*, *Philoctetes*, and *Oedipus at Colonus*. He was the most celebrated Athenian dramatist for five decades, winning more dramatic competitions than his peers: he competed in 30 competitions and won 24; Aeschylus won 13 and Euripides won 4. His most famous works are those featuring *Antigone* and *Oedipus*, known as the Theban plays. He is known for his innovations in dramatic structure and the development of his characters. He was credited by Aristotle with the introduction of scene-painting. His work evolved through three stages. In the first he plainly imitated Aeschylus; during the second his unique style appears; the third shows the revelation of character through natural diction and expression of feelings. Born to a wealthy family in Colonus, Attica, he was highly educated and well connected. During the time of Pericles he served as one of Athens' treasurers and was later elected one of ten generals. His long life spanned a period between the Persian Wars on one end and most of the Peloponnesian War in his old age, during which he served on a commission investigating the loss of Greek forces in an invasion of Sicily. He received many invitations to attend the courts of foreign rulers, all of which he declined.