

“Since life is a voyage or a battle,  
all stories are either the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey*.”

Raymond Queneau

## Poems to Read for Week 2

**“Hector’s Return”** by **Carl Dennis** (pp. 60 - 61)

**“Archaic Penelope”** by **Joanna-Veronica Warwick** (pp. 131 - 132)



# *The Iliad*

**Sing, Goddess,  
the wrath of Achilles**

Week 2, Part 1





# Brief Overview of the Epic

(I had begun the process of writing this out, as concisely as I could...but Homer's 15,693 lines defeated me). Consult <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-iliad/summary>



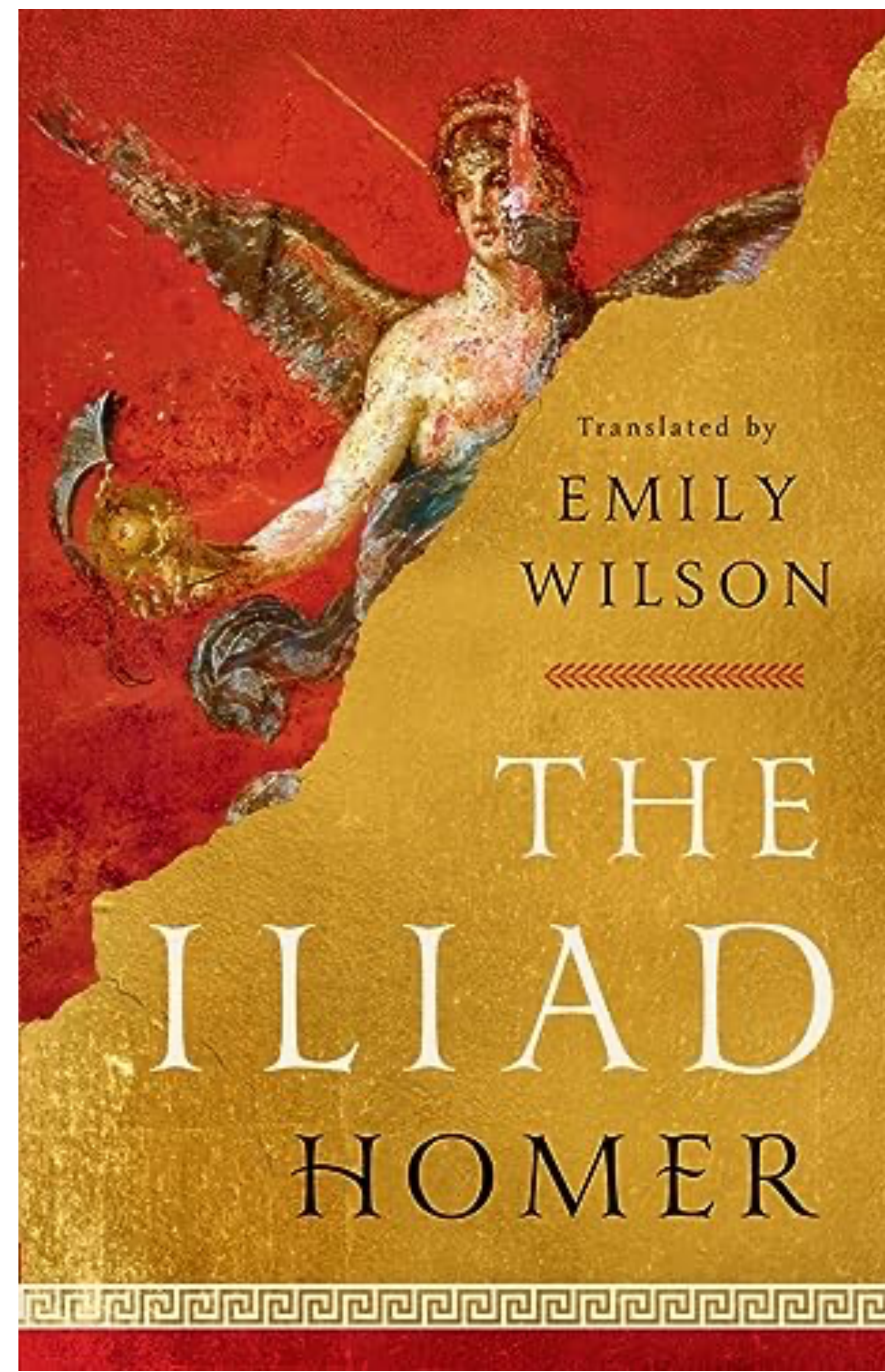
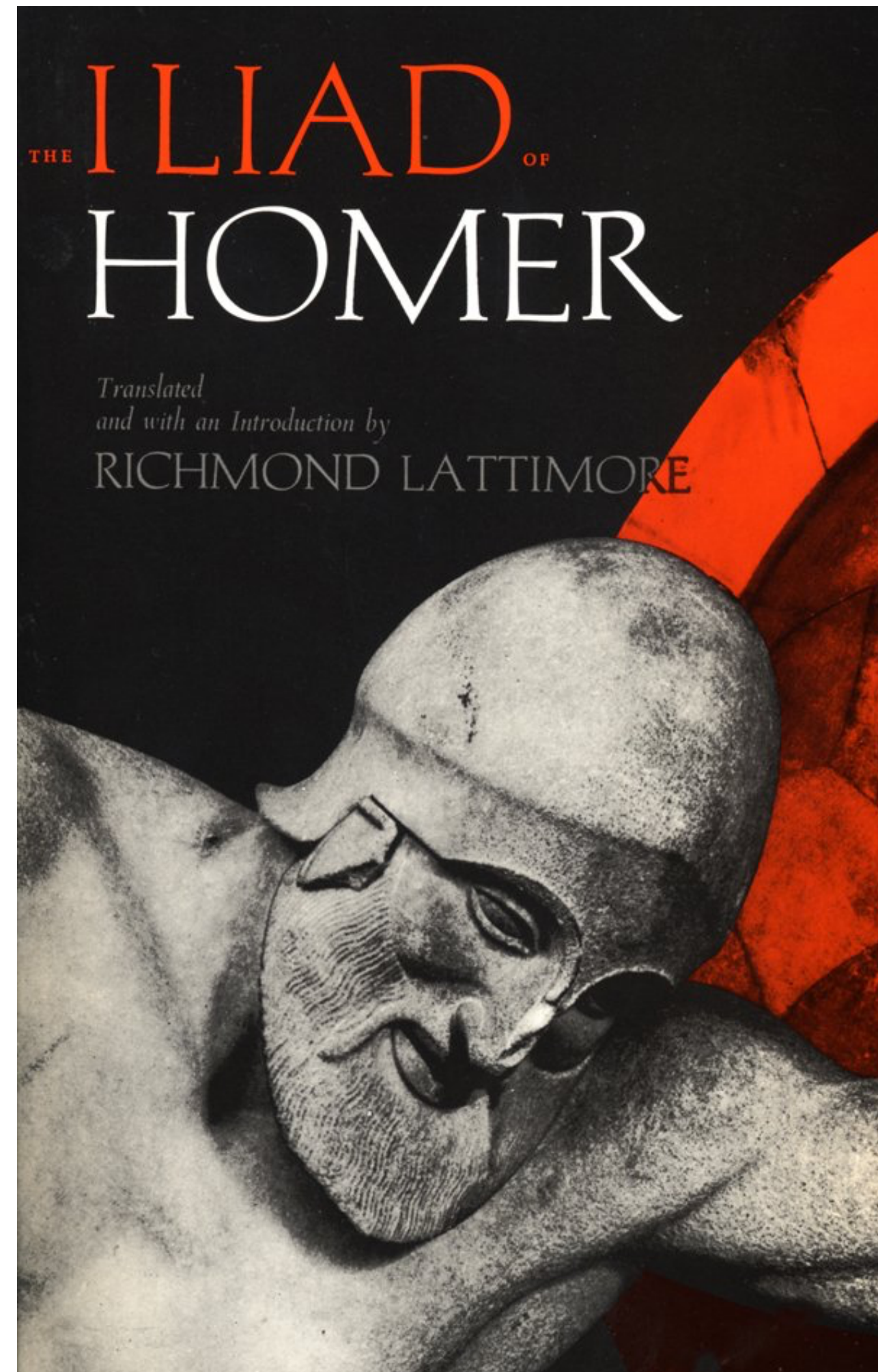
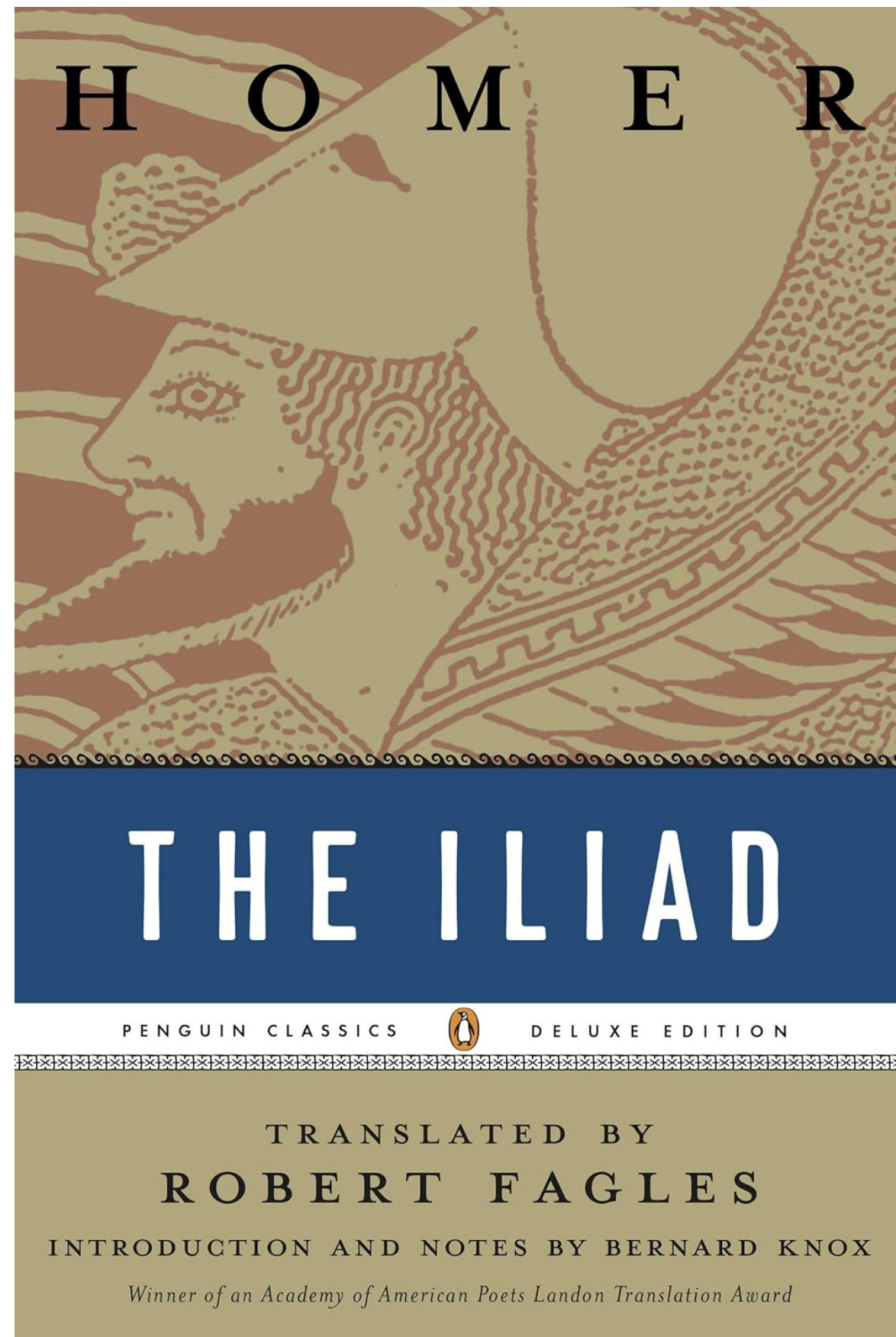


# My Favorite Translations of *The Iliad*:

Emily Wilson (W.W. Norton, 2023)

Richmond Lattimore (Univ. of Chicago, 1951, 2011)

Robert Fagles (Penguin, 1998)







**Epic Poem of a Trojan Warrior-Prince  
and His Escape from Burning Troy**

**Books 1 - 6 : “Odyssean”**

**Books 7 - 12 : “Iliadic”**

**(30 - 19 BCE)**



# Medieval Versions of Homer

**John Tzetzes** (Greek: Ἰωάννης Τζέτζης, *translit.* *Iōánnēs Tzétzēs*; c. 1110, Constantinople – 1180, Constantinople):

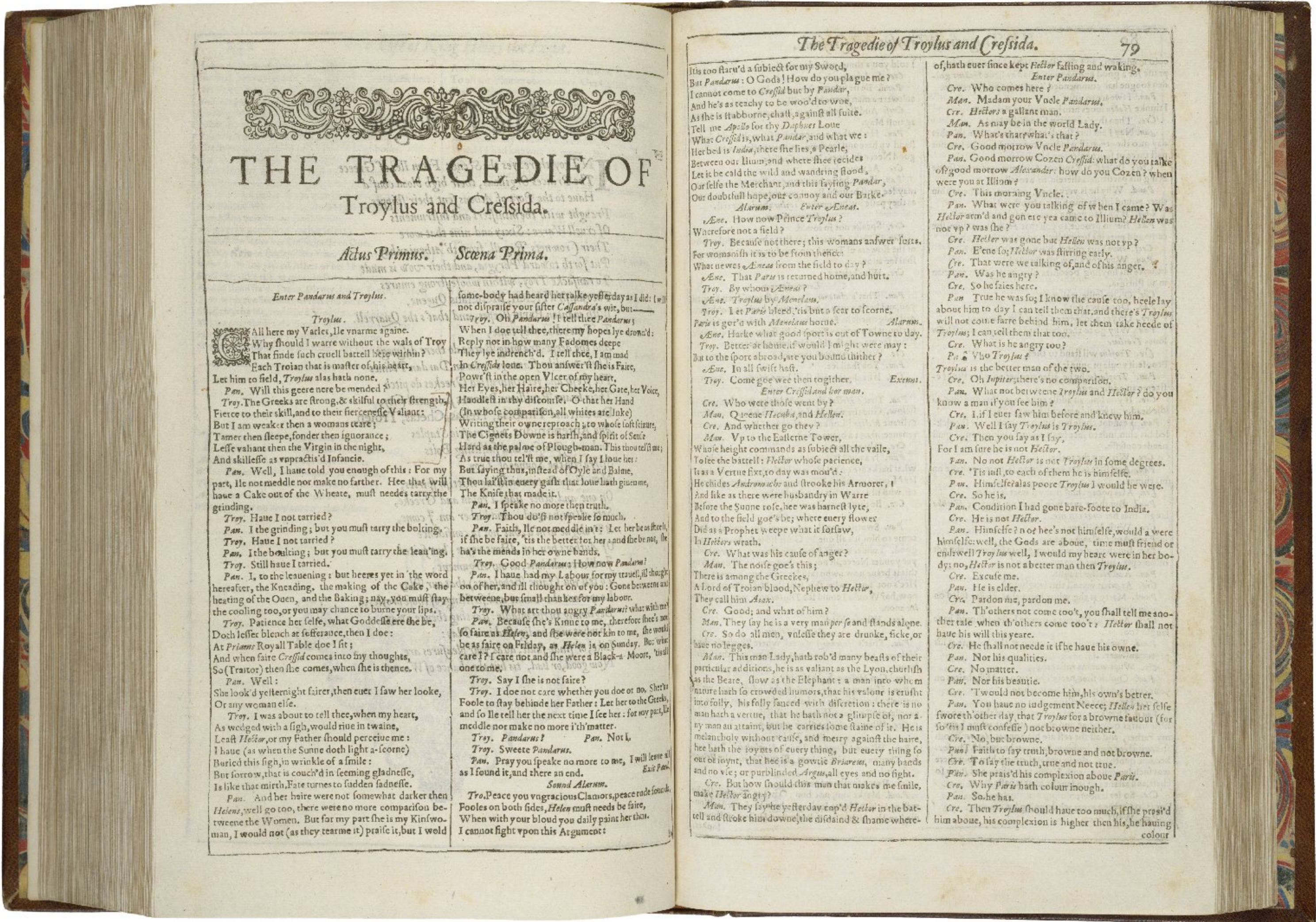
*Allegoriai* on the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, which are long **didactic poems** containing interpretations of **Homeric** theology.

The ***Hermoniakos' Iliad*** (Greek: Ἰλιάς Κωνσταντίνου Ἑρμονιακοῦ) is a 14th-century **Byzantine paraphrase** of the *Iliad* composed by Constantine Hermoniakos. The poem was commissioned by the **Despot of Epirus**, who asked Hermoniakos to write a new version of this **epic** in the **Greek vernacular** language.

(Wikipedia)



# Chaucer, *Troilus and Creseyde* (c. 1385)



# Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida* (c. 1602)

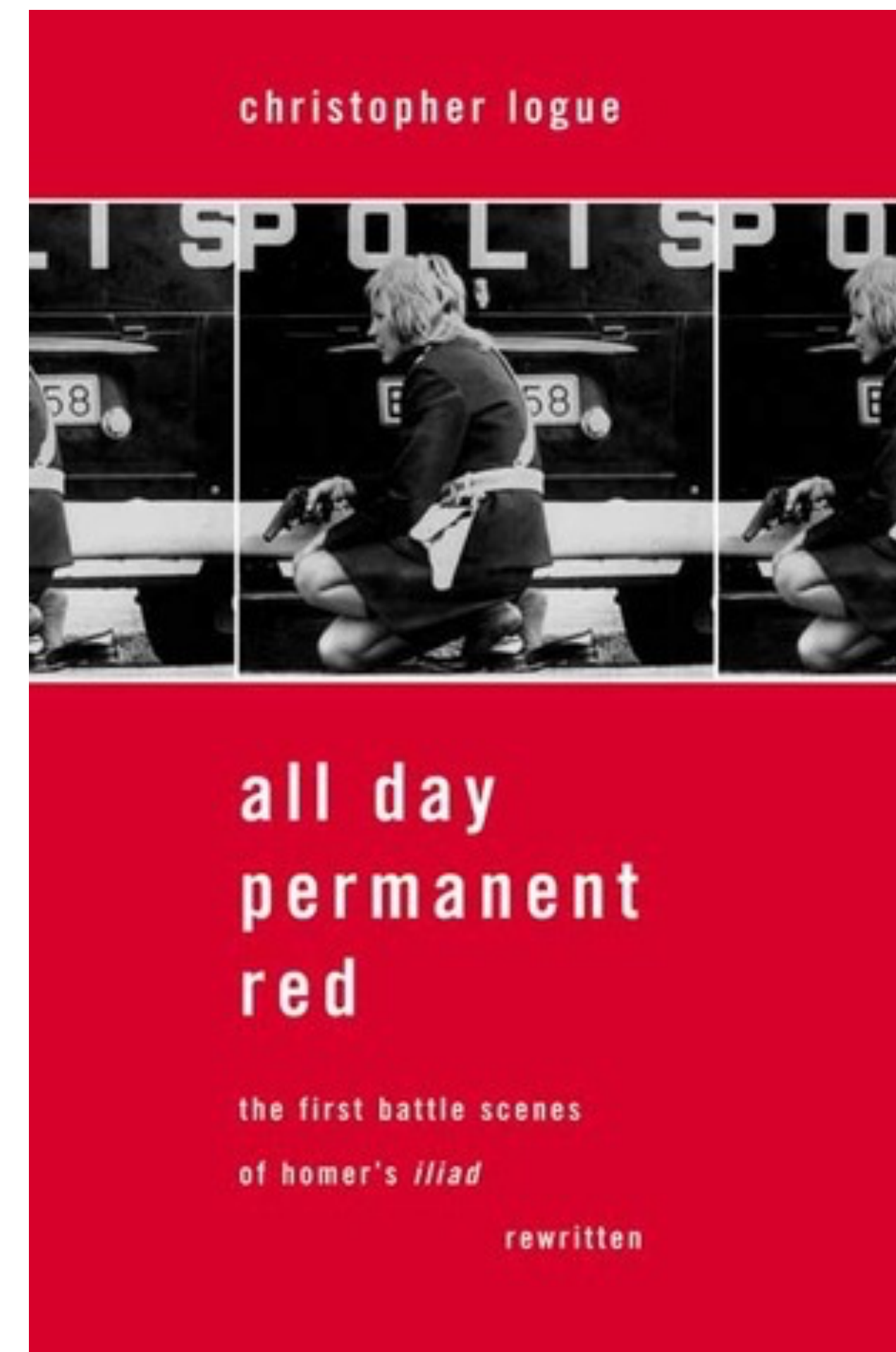
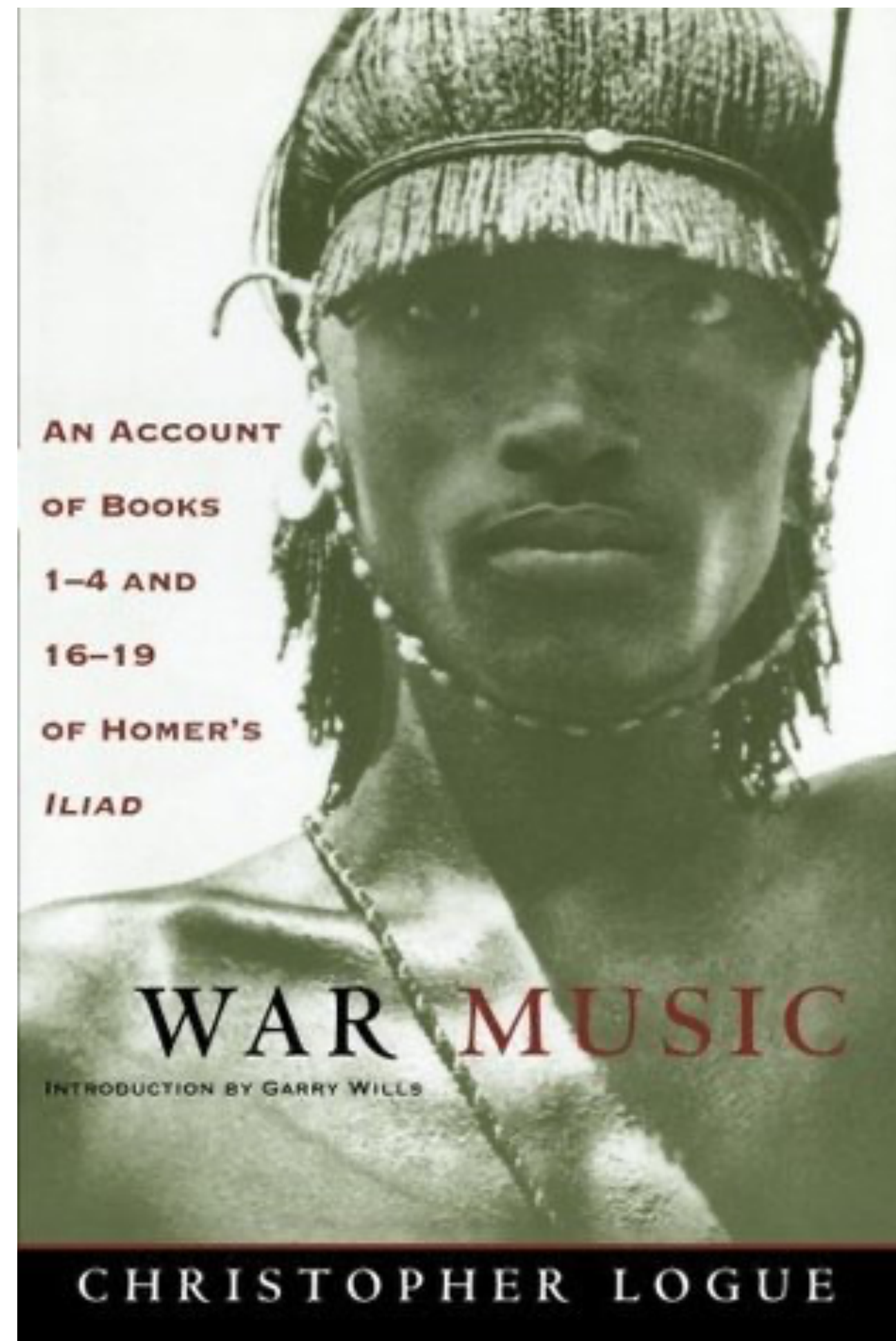


Christopher Logue, *War Music:*

*An Account of Books 1-4 and 16-19 of Homer's "Iliad"*

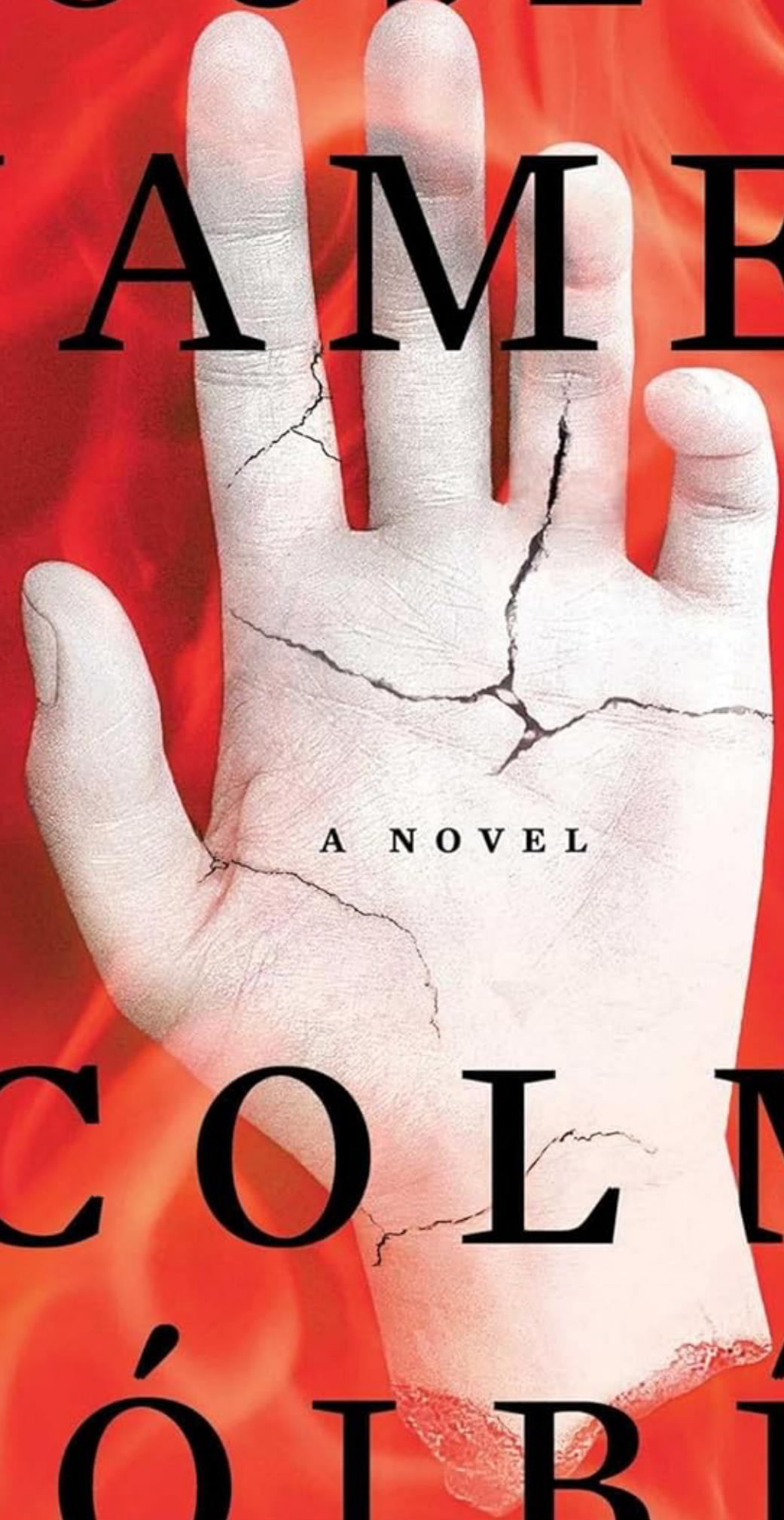
(New York: Farrer, Straus & Giroux, 1981)

— and other volumes of his poetry, based on the *Iliad*





HOUSE OF  
NAMES



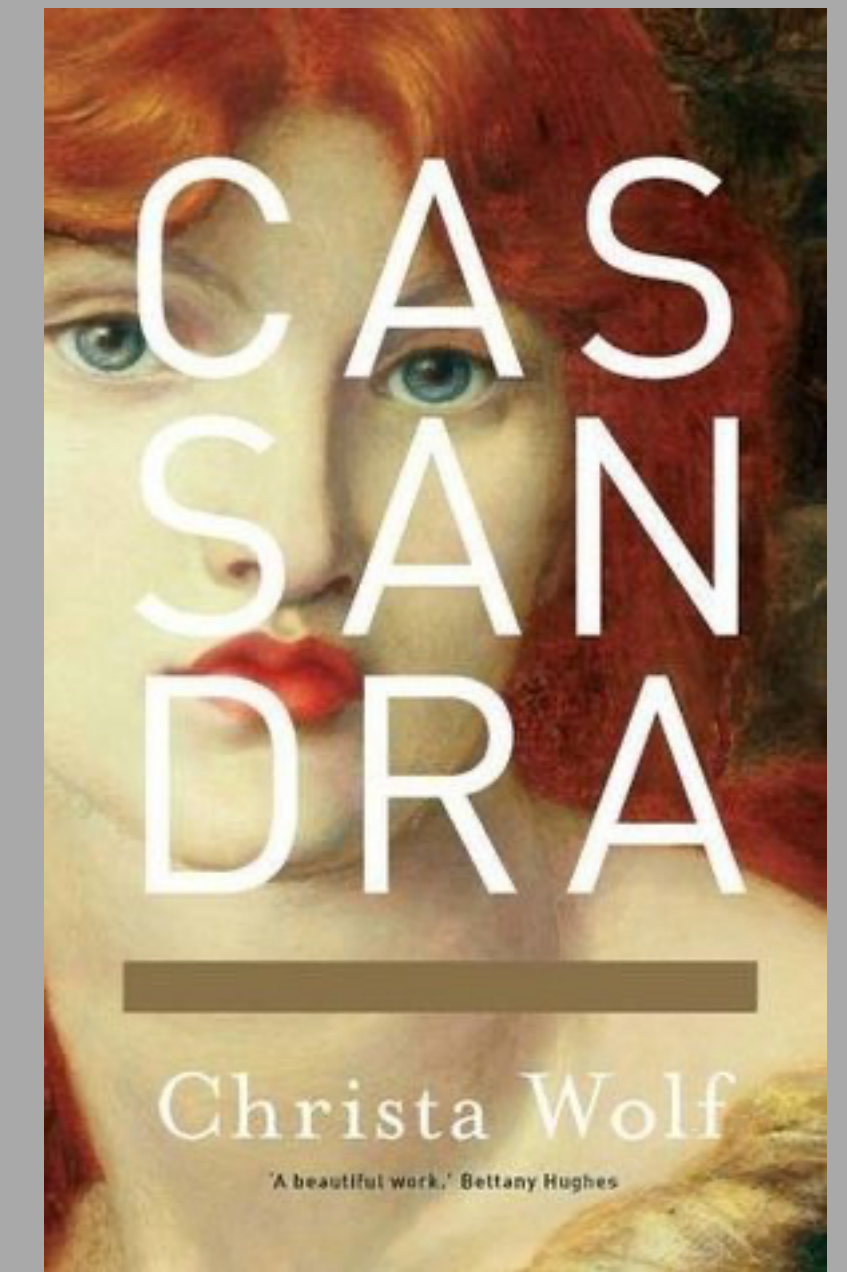
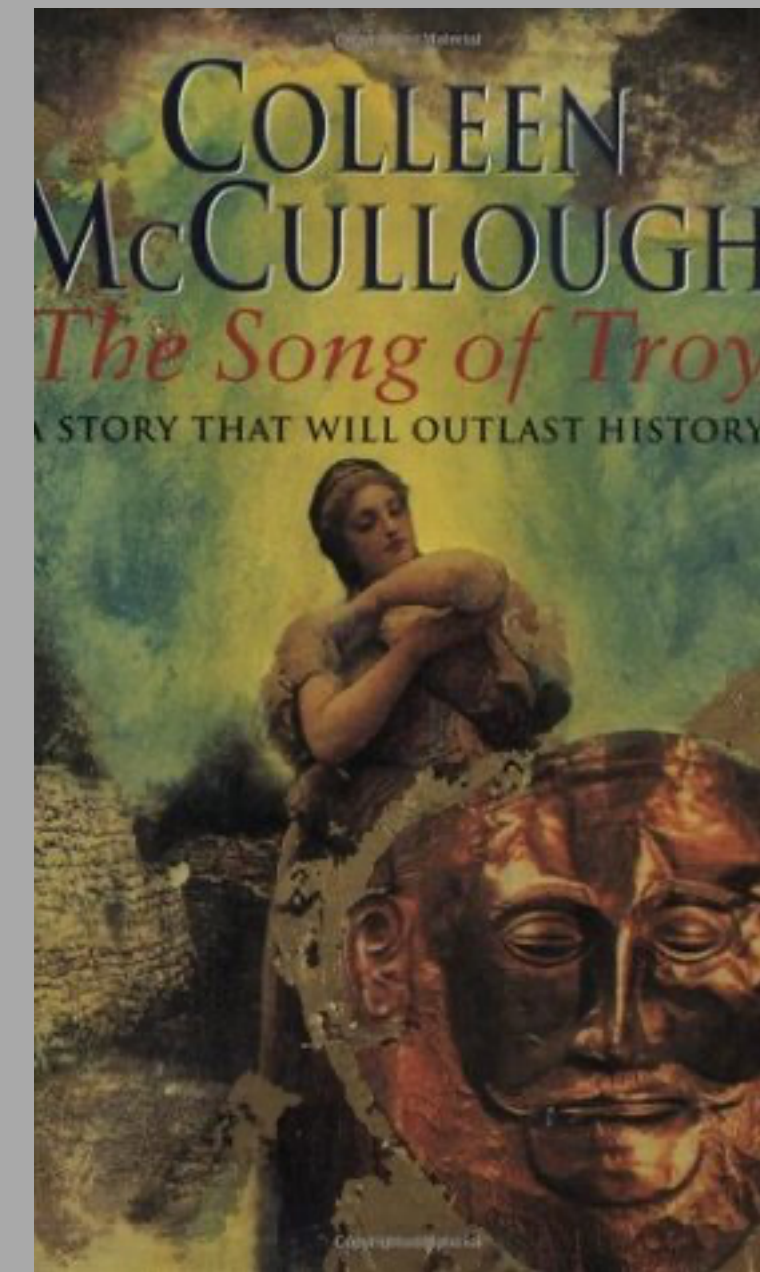
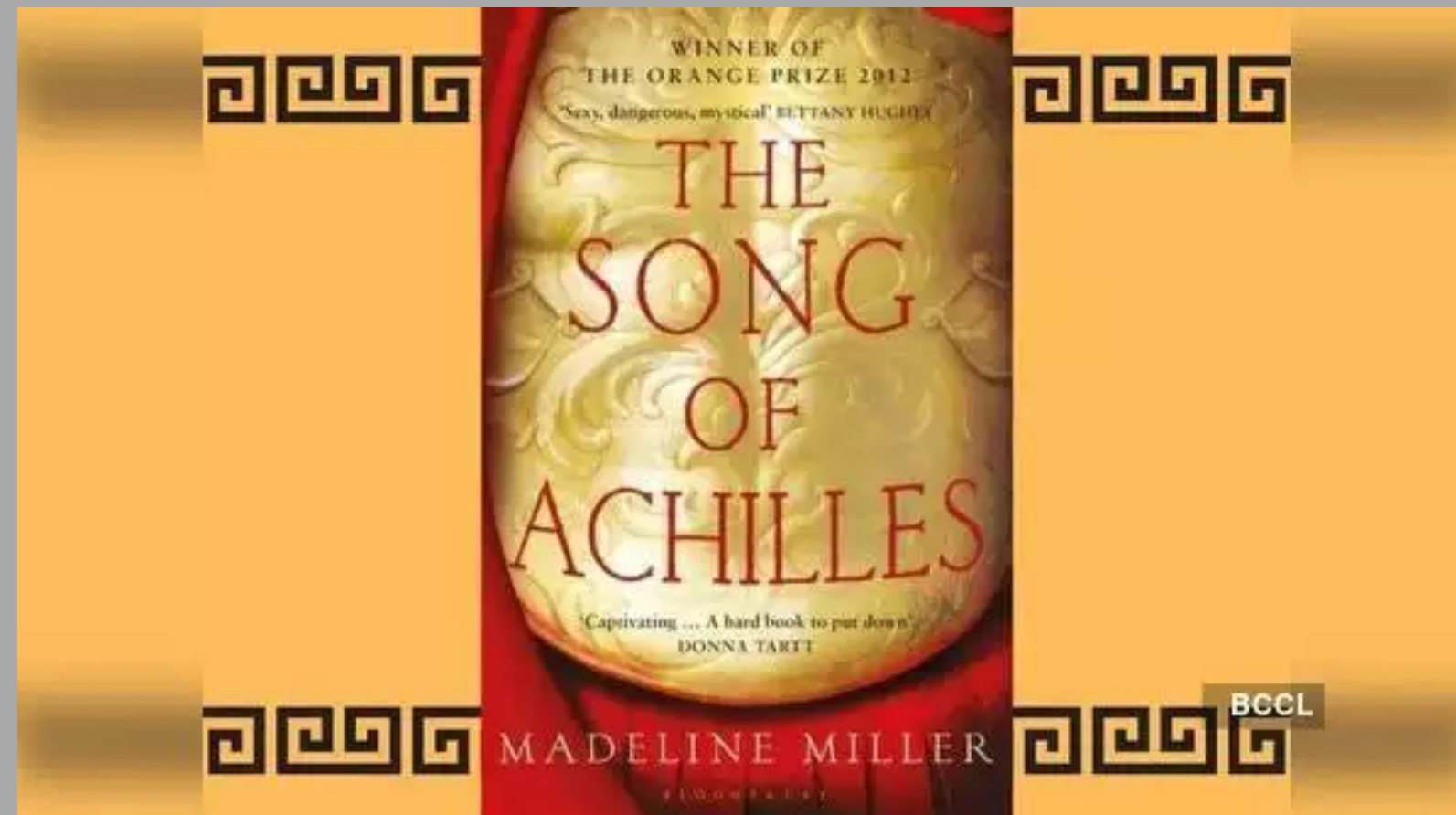
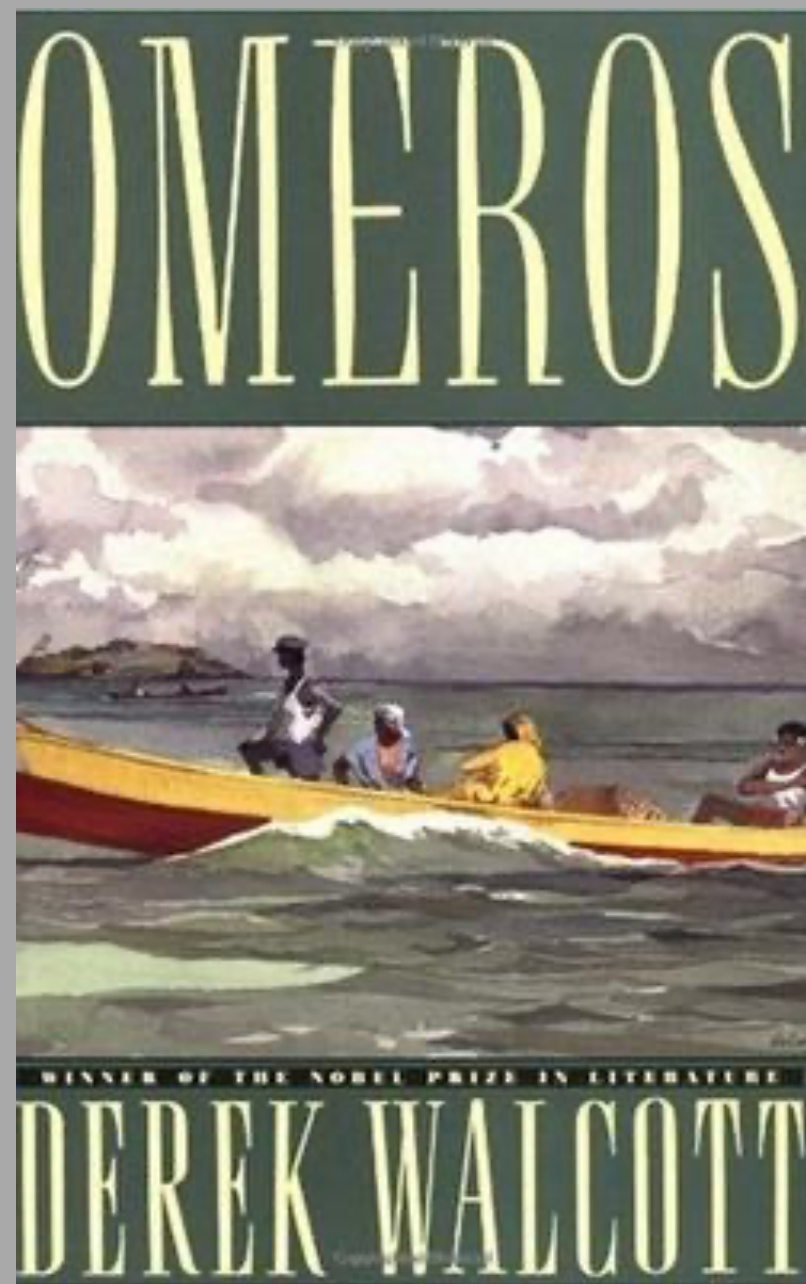
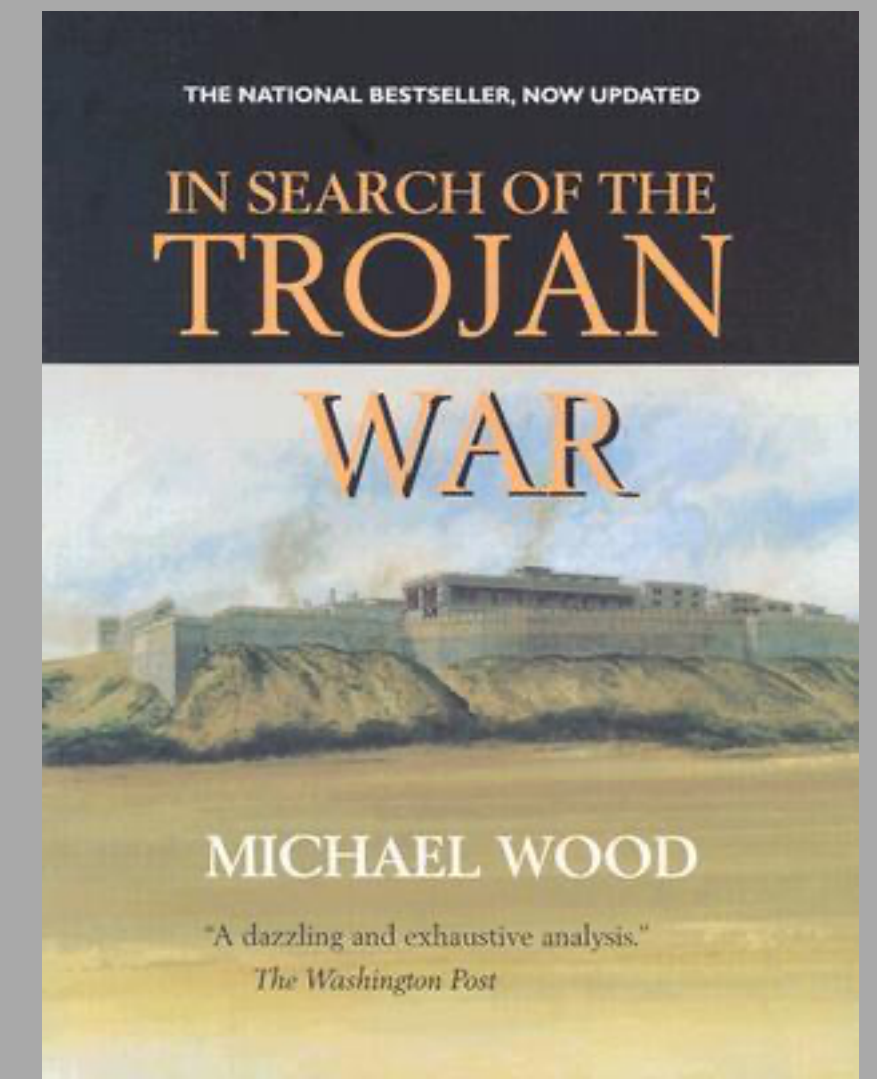
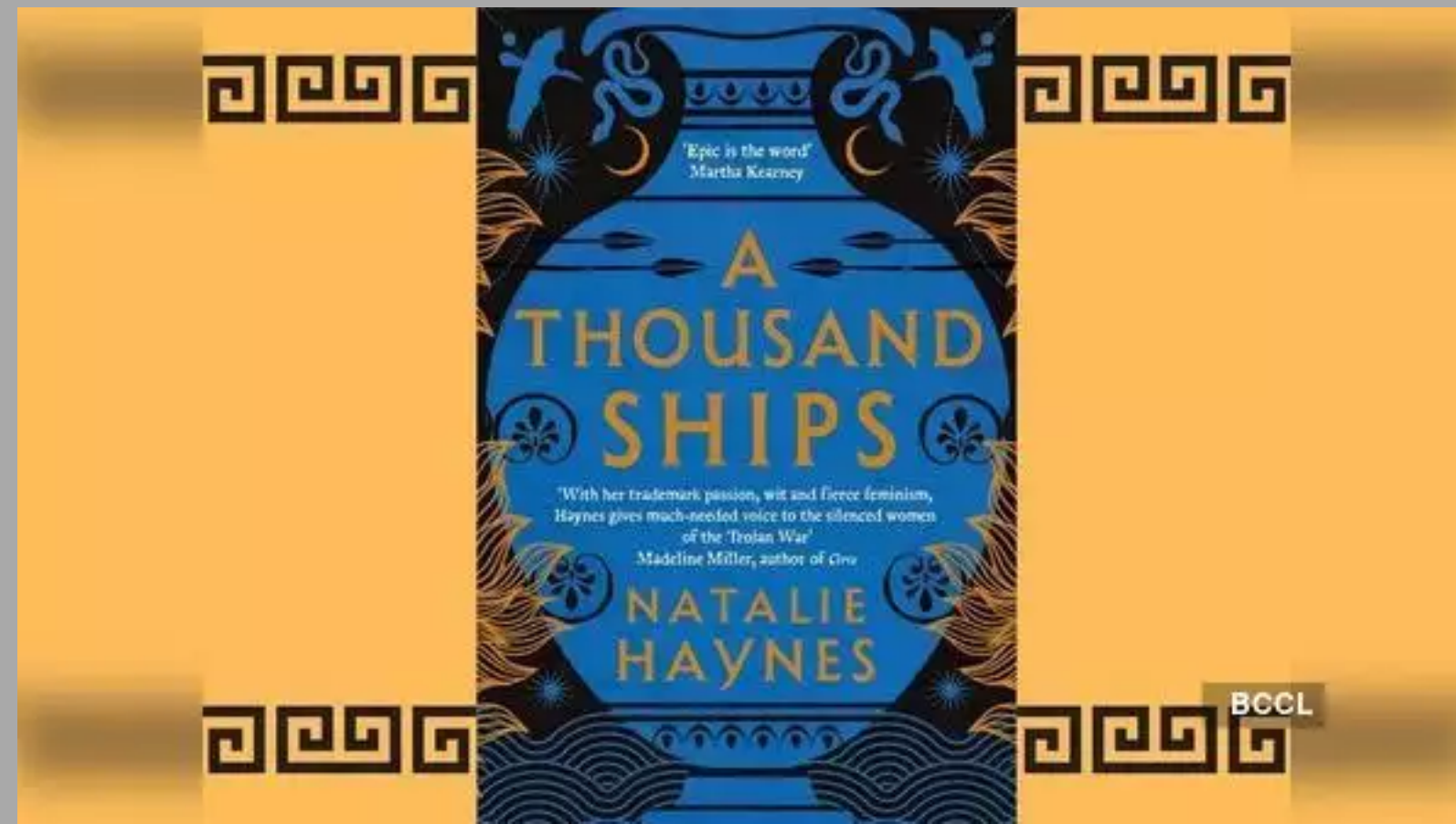
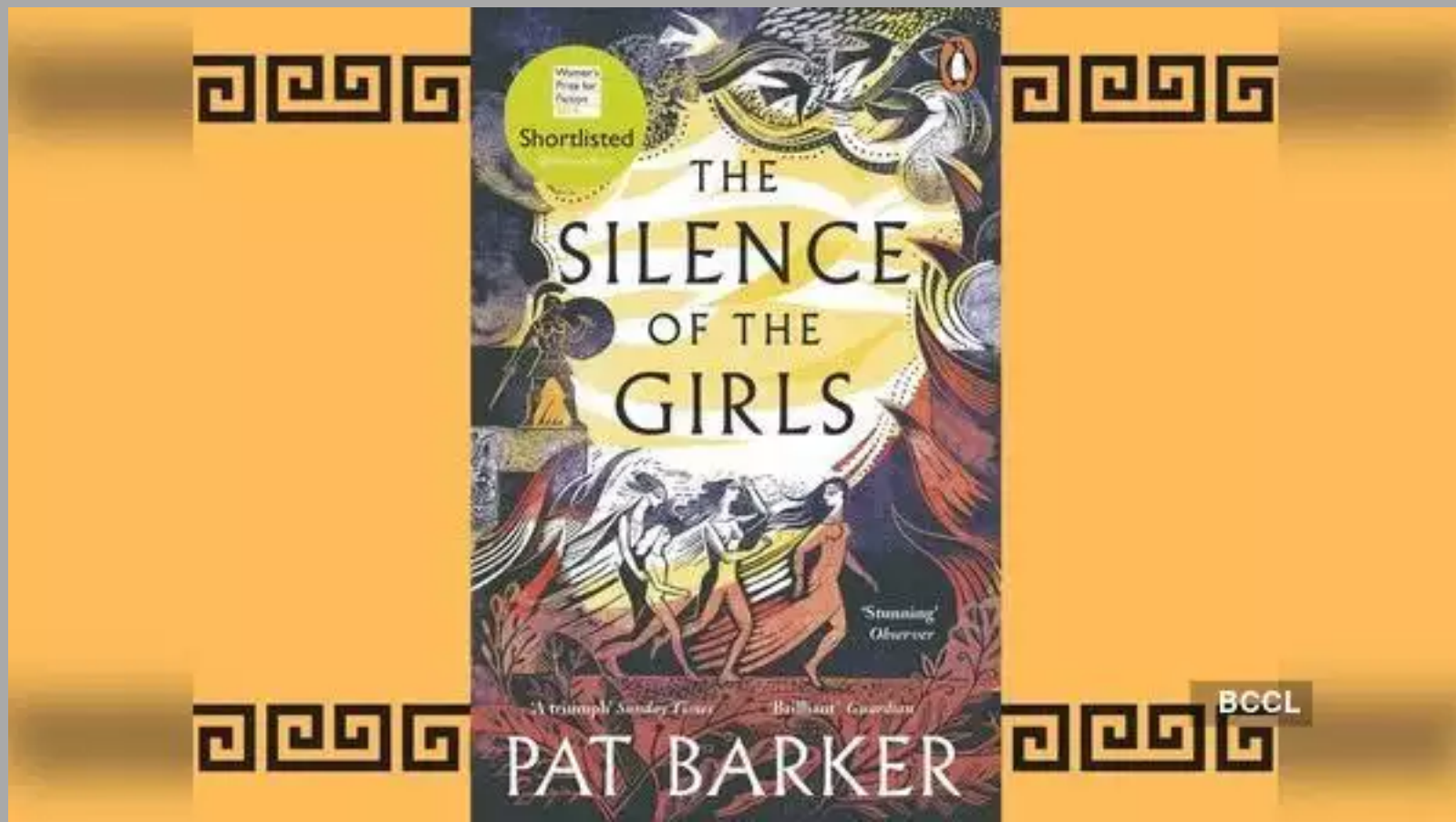
A NOVEL

COLM  
TÓIBÍN

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
NORA WEBSTER AND BROOKLYN

Clytemnestra's narrative of  
the the murder of her husband,  
originally presented in  
Aeschylus's *Agamemnon*









*Athena*

Panathenaic amphora



**Athena Restraining  
Achilles from  
Murdering Agamemnon**

**Roman mosaic  
Pompeii (1st century CE)**







**Duel Between  
Menelaus and Paris**

**Athenian red-figure  
wine cup**

**(480 BCE)**



***Thanatos (Death) and Hypnos (Sleep)***

**Lift Sarpedon from the Battlefield**

Athenian red-figure  
wine-mixing bowl

(C. 515 BCE)

Euxitheos, potter

Euphronius, painter







**Achilles Receives  
His Shield  
from Thetis**

**Attic black-figure *hydria***

**(C. 550 BCE)**



# from W. H. Auden's "The Shield of Achilles" (1952)

[click on text to hear Auden reading his poem]



Barbed wire enclosed an arbitrary spot  
Where bored officials lounged (one cracked a joke)  
And sentries sweated for the day was hot:  
A crowd of ordinary decent folk  
Watched from without and neither moved nor spoke  
As three pale figures were led forth and bound  
To three posts driven upright in the ground.

The mass and majesty of this world, all  
That carries weight and always weighs the same  
Lay in the hands of others; they were small  
And could not hope for help and no help came:  
What their foes like to do was done, their shame  
Was all the worst could wish; they lost their pride  
And died as men before their bodies died.



**from Homer's 'Shield of Achilles' *Ekphrasis*\*:**



**And on the shield he set a fallow field [....]**

**Numerous plowmen worked [it ...]**

**someone came to them and set**

**a cup of honeyed wine into their hands. [...]**

**it was made of gold. It was amazing.**

**from Auden's Description of Hephaistos's Work:**

**But there on the shining metal**

**His hands had put instead**

**An artificial wilderness**

**And a sky like lead.**

\* a literary passage devoted to a detailed description of a work of art



# Achilles Kills Hector

Athenian red-figure  
wine-mixing bowl

(C. 480 BCE)







King Priam Entreating Achilles for Hector's Body



King Priam Mourning His Son, Hector



# *La Caduta di Troia*



1911 film by G. Pastrone and L.R. Borgnetto



# Hector Berlioz, *Les Troyens* (1856-1858)

mezzo  
liveHD



[click image  
for full  
performance]



# Max Bruch *Achilles* (1885)

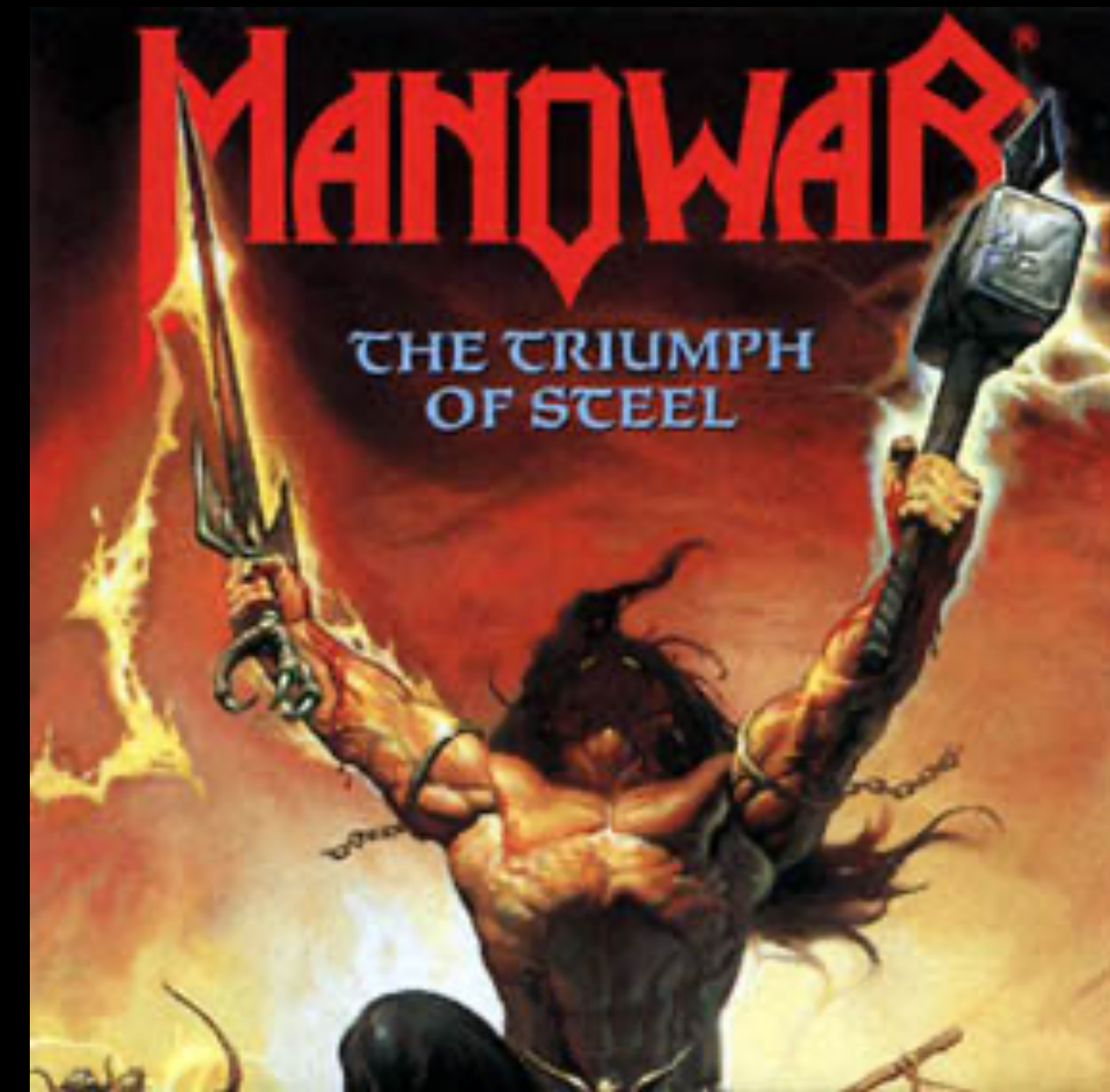


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## Power-Metal Achilles (1992)

[it was even endorsed by  
a professor of Classics  
at University of Bologna!]



< click

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Triumph\\_of\\_Steel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Triumph_of_Steel)



# *Helen of Troy*

1956 film, Robert Wise

[\[click for trailer\]](#)

viewer advisory: steamy!





**the new Helen: Sienna Guillroy**



(2003)

**the new Cassandra: Emilia Fox**



<https://www.famousfix.com/topic/helen-of-troy-tv-series>





2004