



The Iliad

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In a companion volume to his award-winning adaptation of *The Odyssey*, the incomparable graphic novelist Gareth Hinds masterfully adapts Homer's classic wartime epic.

More than three thousand years ago, two armies faced each other in an epic battle that rewrote history and came to be known as the Trojan War. *The Iliad*, Homer's legendary account of this nine-year ordeal, is considered the greatest war story of all time and one of the most important works of Western literature. In this stunning graphic novel adaptation -- a thoroughly researched and artfully rendered masterwork -- renowned illustrator Gareth Hinds captures all the grim glory of Homer's epic. Dynamic illustrations take readers directly to the plains of Troy, into the battle itself, and lay bare the complex emotions of the men, women, and gods whose struggles fueled the war and determined its outcome. This companion volume to Hinds's award-winning adaptation of *The Odyssey* features notes, maps, a cast of characters, and other tools to help readers understand all the action and drama of Homer's epic.

The Iliad Details

Date : Published March 12th 2019 by Candlewick Press

ISBN : 9780763696634

Author : Gareth Hinds

Format : Paperback 272 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Mythology, Classics, Comics

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From Reader Review The Iliad for online ebook

Lou says

Homer's epic war poem The Iliad, set in ancient Greece, is one of the most revered classics of all time, and it's quite a tough read for many, so I was excited to discover this graphic novel version which I thought would be especially perfect for introducing youngsters to Homer's works. However, I'm afraid there were a number of issues. It was very difficult to read as the words ran into one another, and I felt describing it as a graphic novel was a bit of a misrepresentation; it's more accurately described as pretty much the entire tale in writing with a few accompanying illustrations which was not what I chose to read this for. It's simply too wordy to be called a graphic novel, and that, of course, defeats the purpose.

The inclusion of maps and charts was a nice touch and much appreciated but with all of the formatting issues, this was too messy to enjoy. I would like to think that the finalised version will have all of the problems resolved or there are going to be some rather unhappy readers. There were also far more characters than the usual telling of the story which isn't ideal and will almost certainly be off-putting to many. If I, a reasonably astute reader, have problems engaging with this then those that are younger are likely to have a similar problem. I'm also, sadly, not a fan of the artwork. A great concept but poor execution.

Many thanks to Candlewick for an ARC.

Faith Hough says

Don't let the graphic novel format fool you into thinking this is a dumbed-down version of Homer's classic work. Rather, its gorgeous illustrations, maps, and character charts (the latter two are a brilliant addition) provide a new facet or two to the work, while still maintaining the same story, same gorgeous (albeit abridged) language, and plenty of the same epic violence. If your children are not ready for reading about spears through heads, bloody battles, and the like, then hold off on this. But if they're just about ready for Homer, try this first--it is much easier to keep track of which characters are which and how the events unfold with the visuals provided by illustration. And then find the audiobook of the original narrated by Dan Stevens so they can experience the language of Homer as generations have before them: recited by a great storyteller!

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

The Iliad is a cautionary tale for our time.

It's an old story, from around the twelfth century B.C. and the reader can't help but feel glad we don't live in times such as these. Men grow angry with each other. They steal others' possessions. They seek vengeance for wrongs done to them. They attack each other, and they are vicious in their attacks, slashing with spears, brutally killing and maiming. They go to war against each other, and their wars last for years. They relish the cruelty they do to others. They seek the help of the gods, who are just as petty and vindictive as the humans themselves.

Yes, it's an old story, and the reader can't help but feel glad we don't live in times such as these, times we slash out at our opponents, times we delight in the cruelty we inflict on others, times we seek to build walls

to protect ourselves, walls that oh-so-easily tumble and fall when the violence breaks out between conflicting tribes.

This book is a cautionary tale.

Holly says

Physical ARC kindly provided by Candlewick Press

I think this could be a good way to reach new readers of the classic, but for me, it just didn't hit the mark. Maybe it was because the artwork wasn't in color (as I read the ARC), but something about it just didn't flow well. It was confusing at times, how it was written, and the characters were hard to tell apart (but that's just the bad luck of there being so many in *The Illiad!*). That war touched hundreds of lives, all because of the fickleness of gods and men. And I enjoyed reading this new adaptation of it!

Jane says

Wow. There is a lot going on in this book. Like a super lot. For me, someone who is not well-versed in the Iliad or Greek mythology, this was just too dense.

Reading this felt a bit like trying to watch all 8 seasons of Game of Thrones condensed into one season. The result is a massive info dump of character names and relationships and that doesn't leave a ton of room for engaging story. I chose to read this because I thought it would be an easier way to familiarize myself with the stories. I think the opposite is true.

This material will be much more enjoyed by those who already have some understanding of the story. My 10-year-old nephew who has been absorbing these stories since he was about 6 would LOVE this. He already knows the background information, so reading this would not nearly be the same struggle for him. I think this is well-suited for that kind of reader.

The art here is good, and I appreciate the efforts Hinds made to try to differentiate between the characters. I also quite like the notes throughout that explain certain words or ideas.

Overall, I give this 3 stars, but think that people familiar with the story will like this much more than I did.

Thank you to NetGalley and Candlewick Press for providing me with a DRC of this book.

Bruce says

This is sort of a mixed bag. I really wouldn't call it a graphic novel--more like an illustrated story. You have the pictures that go along with the narrative describing what is happening. For me it was hard to get into.

Liv | Books to Liv by says

Rating: **4 stars**

HEA: **You know it's not going to happen**

“I'll never follow your orders again if you take Briseis. And should you lay claim to anything else of mine, your blood will soak my spear.”

The Iliad has always been my favorite of the three classics. I don't know exactly why, but I guess there's something unequivocally sad and melancholic about Achilles's character and the madness he experienced after Patroclus's death. The same madness that drove him to kill Hector and fulfill that atrocious prophecy. This graphic novel was interesting to the point I didn't want it to end. Told in prose, lines and stunning drawings, it's one of the most beautiful versions of the Iliad I have ever seen. I would recommend it to adults, but children as well. The drawings were engaging and those who portrayed Patroclus and Hector's death were poignant and quietly eloquent.

Loved the electronic version. I am wondering about the paperback...

Thank you Netgalley and Candlewick Press for providing me this copy in exchange for an honest review. Thoughts and opinions are my own.

Amalia Gavea says

“How I wish that Discord could be banished from the world.”

There have been many novels that chose the greatest war story of all time as their setting. Trilogies, plays, you name it. This graphic novel by Gareth Hinds is probably the best adaptation I've ever encountered.

Narrating the rhapsodies of Homer's immortal epic is no easy task. However, Hinds succeeds in transferring the Trojan War in the contemporary art of the Graphic novel and retaining the beauty of the Homeric language and the violent atmosphere of the bloody dispute between the Achaeans and the Trojans. I was impressed by the style of the illustrations, the way the Greek deities were depicted, the clothes, the weaponry, the architecture. Every characteristic of the Bronze Age is brilliantly portrayed. The impressive moments are many. The fury of Achilles, the interventions of the Olympians, Helen's guilt, Agamemnon's arrogance, Hector's despair. The futility of a war for power and greed, the sacrilege, the dubious glory. Brilliant translation, extraordinary artwork.

Imagine a universe where Homer returns to life, in our world, and decides to become a Graphic Novel artist. This would be his “new” *Iliad*. Thank you, Gareth Hinds.

Many thanks to Candlewick Press and NetGalley for the ARC in exchange for an honest review.

My reviews can also be found on <https://theopinionatedreaderblog.wordpress.com>

Ivana de B. says

<https://buriedinbookssite.wordpress.com>

This is a retelling of **The Iliad** in form of a graphic novel. The author **Gareth Hinds** brings us once again to one of the most famous battles of all time. There is no need for me to summarise this graphic novel since the story is so well-known and well-loved.

I immensely enjoyed the maps and the charts. They were very helpful in bringing the story closer to me. Also, the chart with all the characters at the beginning was incredible, it made it easy to visualise everything. I love how it was similar to a list of characters in a play!

The art was quite lovely. I really enjoyed it, above all else because it was so different from the other graphic novels I've read in the past. My only complain is that it appeared a bit grainy, but that must have been a problem with my e-arc.

However, all those things could not cloud the fact that I simply did not enjoy this graphic novel. I am actually a big fan of the Iliad and Achilles is one of my favorite characters in greek mythology, but I simply couldn't get into this novel.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lukasz says

Well written, accurate, faithful to the original. Unfortunately, I actively disliked the art. I'm sure others will love it, though.

Kimberly Carrington-Fox says

It looks like an oldish book, with simple artwork (pencils, maybe?) and too much text. I love The Iliad and, although I think this graphic novel can be perfect for the youngsters to get to know the classic story, for me it was a little dissapointing. Don't expect something like 300, this is the story (not only the Trojan horse but the whole story) with drawings. I think it's great for aproaching to Homer's tale but not so much for people that have read the original many times, like myself.

Leticia says

I haven't read The Iliad by Homer yet, but this seems to be an interesting adaptation, even if I think that the ratio of text and images wasn't always optimally balanced.

I could imagine giving this graphic novel to teens as an introduction to the epic of Homer.

I would like to thank NetGalley and Candlewick Press for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Kailey (BooksforMKs) says

This graphic novel retelling of Homer's Iliad was not quite what I expected. It's much too word-heavy for a graphic novel, and I found myself bogged down in the text. Most of the panels have so much text that there is barely room for the artwork. And the artwork itself is nothing special. I didn't care for the cartoony look, and it just didn't grab my attention. It looks somewhat amateur, or hastily drawn.

If you are a big fan of the Iliad, you might like this, but I did not enjoy reading it. Usually I love classical literature, and I have read The Iliad before, so I was happy to be revisiting the story of the Trojan War with all the drama. But this book does not deliver drama. It feels stale and static, like the characters are all made of stone.

Disappointed in this one.

Disclaimer: I received an ecopy of this book from the publisher/author via NetGalley in exchange for a free and honest review. All the opinions stated here are my own true thoughts, and are not influenced by anyone.

Trish says

This was horrible. This was not what I was expecting from a graphic novel. It is essentially a book with random (bad) small pictures thrown into it. Not the traditional format of a graphic novel at all. This was just down right bad to read as an ebook as well. The writing was all messed up and sentences were mixing together so the story itself made no sense. Hopefully a print version of this will be a lot better. I liked the idea of making older stories easier to read in graphic novel form but this fell completely short of those expectations.

Thank you to the publisher & Netgalley for allowing me to read and review this book.

B.A. Wilson says

I love this concept of telling the story of the Iliad using a graphic novel, but I confess that I did still struggle to push through this, often caught myself skimming, and probably didn't absorb much of it. It wasn't at all what I was expecting, as it has very text heavy panels and the art is a bit rough around the edges, with an almost biblical feel.

It can be a challenging read in its original format, with all of the different characters. They did a good job of trying to include identifiers to help you recognize certain characters, and they even included a character key/chart at the start. However, if you aren't the type to just memorize all the names, facts, and pictures, it's a bit like information overload. You aren't going to remember any of it when you actually need it.

In other words, they did everything they could to help me successfully read this graphic novel, but I still fought against the archaic language and overwhelmingly quick introduction of characters whom I was just expected to know.

The panels are very text heavy, and while I understand why, it became tiring. I think this is like a retelling of the Iliad with pictures, and I wanted a true graphic novel format, which might have been unreasonable of me. What I really hoped for, when I opened this one, was for the story to be broken down into easy to follow scenes and everyday language. But maybe I was asking for and expecting too much from this particular piece of literature. The original is a bear, and on some level, this graphic novel does make the story more readable

and interesting. However, I've come to realize I'm just not that interested in reading this story again. It was painful and confusing enough the first time I read it in the full text version.

I think what they did was try to stay true to the original, and while this would be handy in a school or research setting, when you are forced to read or study the original version, I didn't enjoy revisiting this story as an adult. I just wanted to really be able to wrap my mind around it and enjoy the story, but I found it tedious and often confusing. Most of the time, I wasn't sure who was who or what was really happening and why, which I hate to confess, since I've studied the original Iliad before (sorry, mom!).

Thank you to Netgalley, and the publisher, for allowing me to read an advanced copy. This graphic novel will be available tomorrow, on March 12, 2019. If you are currently reading or studying The Iliad, then I definitely recommend this as a tool to help you better understand the literature. It would be absolutely great for that purpose. For all others, this one is for either big fans of ancient lit, or those who love to bury themselves in overwhelming details about characters and Gods. It's definitely not for your average graphic novel reader, who will likely find this version to be tiresome.

Pages: 272
