

Pure Pagan (Paperback)

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Reviews

It in a of the best book. Indeed, it really is play, nevertheless an amazing and interesting literature. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book. (Sofia Yundt)

PURE PAGAN (PAPERBACK)



Random House USA Inc, United States, 2005. Paperback. Condition: New. Annotated edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. For there is indeed something we can call the spirit of ancient Greece-a carefully tuned voice that speaks out of the grave with astonishing clarity and grace, a distinctive voice that, taken as a whole, is like no other voice that has ever sung on this earth. -BURTON RAFFEL, from his Preface For centuries, the poetry of Homer, Aristophanes, Sophocles, Sappho, and Archilochus has served as one of our primary means of connecting with the wholly vanished world of ancient Greece. But the works of numerous other great and prolific poets-Alkaios, Meleager, and Simonides, to name a few-are rarely translated into English, and are largely unknown to modern readers. In Pure Pagan, award-winning translator Burton Raffel brings these and many other wise and witty ancient Greek writers to an English-speaking audience for the first time, in full poetic flower. Their humorous and philosophical ruminations create a vivid portrait of everyday life in ancient Greece -and they are phenomenally lovely as well. In short, sharp bursts of song, these two-thousand-year-old poems speak about the timeless matters of everyday life: Wine (Wine is the medicine / To call for, the best medicine / To drink deep, deep) History (Not us: no. / It began with our fathers, / I ve heard). Movers and shakers (If a man shakes loose stones / To make a wall with / Stones may fall on his head / Instead) Old age (Old age is a debt we like to be owed / Not one we like to collect) Frankness (Speak / As you please / And hear what can never / Please). There are also wonderful epigrams (Take what you have while you have it: you Il lose...

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