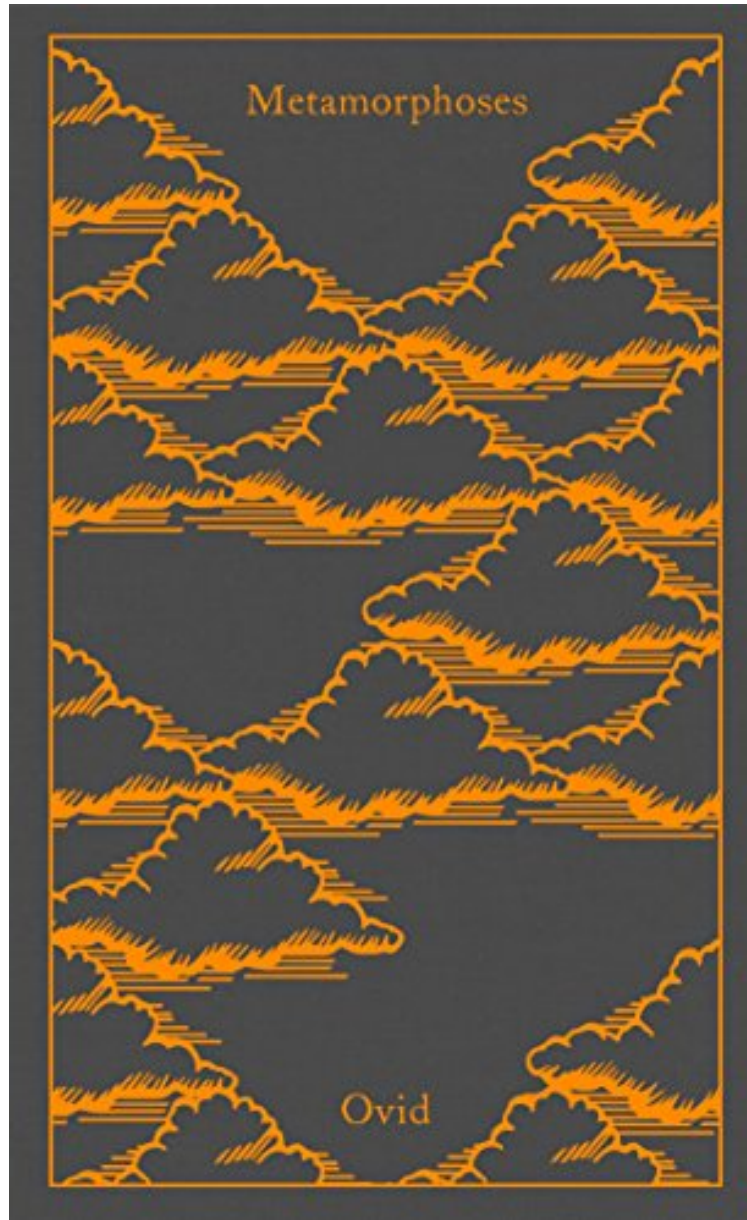


(Free) Metamorphoses (A Penguin Classics Hardcover)

## Metamorphoses (A Penguin Classics Hardcover)

*Ovid*

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**Ovid : Metamorphoses (A Penguin Classics Hardcover)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Metamorphoses (A Penguin Classics Hardcover):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is by far my favorite translation of Metamorphoses that I've run across thus farBy DKLThis is by far my favorite translation of Metamorphoses that I've run across thus far. It's laid out

in verse, rather than in prose paragraphs, which I prefer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By CustomerGood translation, the verse is intact. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the translation is done well and very easy to read and understand  
By PPThis is a classic work that is worth the time it takes to read. As far as I can tell, the translation is done well and very easy to read and understand. I wish the print were a bit larger font, but even to my aged eyes, it is doable. For anyone wanting to read versions of old myths and tales, I would highly recommend it.

Ovid's deliciously clever and exuberant epic, now in a gorgeous new clothbound edition Ovid's sensuous and witty poetry brings together a dazzling array of mythological tales, ingeniously linked by the idea of transformation often as a result of love or lust where men and women find themselves magically changed into new and sometimes extraordinary beings. Beginning with the creation of the world and ending with the deification of Augustus, Ovid interweaves many of the best-known myths and legends of Ancient Greece and Rome, including Daedalus and Icarus, Pyramus and Thisbe, Pygmalion, Perseus and Andromeda, and the fall of Troy. Erudite but lighthearted, dramatic yet playful, the *Metamorphoses* has influenced writers and artists throughout the centuries from Shakespeare and Titian to Picasso and Ted Hughes. This edition includes David Raeburn's modern verse translation, an introduction by Denis Feeney, and other features to help readers fully appreciate Ovid's epic. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

*Metamorphoses* -- The title of Ovid's most famous work, *Metamorphoses*, means "changes of shapes." He tells the reader at the very beginning, "My purpose is to tell of bodies which have been transformed into shapes of different kinds." Using a new translation of the work by Ian Johnston, Naxos AudioBooks has issued a 14-CD complete reading that is quite frankly stunning. The reader is British actor David Horovitch, who is best known as the sour Inspector Slack in the older Miss Marple series with Joan Hickson. It must be pointed out that Ovid was in deep trouble with Augustus, because many of Ovid's books displeased his Emperor who declared a family values campaign in Rome. So Ovid, knowing that Roman emperors believed they would be turned into stars (Julius Caesar) or gods (Caligula declared himself divine while still alive), patterned his newest book in such a way that man-into-god transformations seemed perfectly natural. To avoid monotony, Ovid is careful to vary the tone and length of one story after another. Characters in one story actually tell the story of another metamorphosis just before experiencing their own. He also treats his tales very dramatically, inventing dialogue so the myth reads like a drama. I was particularly impressed with the speech the God of the Sun, Phoebus, gives to his son Phaethon. Having promised him anything he wanted, Phoebus immediately regretted his unbreakable promise when Phaethon wanted to drive the Golden Chariot for a day. Ovid tells one rattling good yarn after another. While following without a written text, the listener might lose his way as to what character is now playing the lead, so to speak; but Horovitch's acting skills keep in synch with Ovid's moods and pacing, and hearing this Naxos set is quite a riveting experience. The total playing time is 17:32 hours. The tracking list must be downloaded from a website given on the back of the jewel case. Mine came to 11 pages. --Frank Behrens - BRATTLEBORO REFORMER  
About the Author  
Ovid (43 BCE-18 CE) was born at Sulmo (modern Sulmona) in central Italy. Coming from a wealthy Roman family and seemingly destined for a career in politics, he held minor official posts before leaving public service to write, becoming the most distinguished poet of his time. His works, all published by Penguin Classics, include *Amores*, a collection of short love poems; *Heroides*, verse-letters written by mythological heroines to their lovers; *Ars Amatoria*, a satirical handbook on love; and *Metamorphoses*, his epic work that has inspired countless writers and artists through the ages. David Raeburn (translator) is a lecturer in Classics at Oxford, and has also translated Sophocles' *Electra* and *Other Plays* for Penguin Classics. Denis Feeney (introducer) is a professor of Classics at Princeton. Coralie Bickford-Smith (cover illustrator) is an award-winning designer at Penguin Books (U.K.), where she has created several highly acclaimed series designs. She studied typography at Reading University and lives in London.