

# DOWNLOAD PDF AFTER THE TROJAN WAR: WOMEN OF TROY, HECUBA, HELEN

## Chapter 1 : After the Trojan War: Women of Troy ; Hecuba ; Helen : Three Plays - Google Books

*The Trojan Women, directed by Marti Maraden, was performed at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival at the Tom Patterson Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, from May 14 to October 5, with Canadian actress Martha Henry as Hecuba.*

Depart of the Atrides It was then that Agamemnon and Menelaus started to quarrel, the latter wishing to sail away and the former insisting that they should stay and sacrifice to the goddess. Although a full-grown rebellion was under way, Agamemnon and Menelaus were allowed to depart without harm, being the first to set sail, yet not as victors but as outcasts. The Returns of the Achaean Leaders Menelaus Relief of an Athenian trireme. Menelaus , when he did sail, had almost all his ships destroyed by a storm. He put in at Sunium, the headland of Attica, with the remaining five ships, but was thence driven by winds to Crete and Egypt, wandering afterwards for seven or eight years, during which he visited the coasts of Libya, Cyprus and Phoenicia, before coming to Argos , on his way to Sparta. Agamemnon was expeditiously murdered on his arrival to Mycenae by his wife Clytaemnestra and her lover Aegisthus. These also killed Cassandra whom Agamemnon had brought as a concubine , who, while still in the Troad, had predicted that Agamemnon would be treacherously slaughtered by members of his household. They say that Athena threw a thunderbolt against his ship which went to pieces. Others have said that he took sanctuary at the altar of Hera , and fleeing with his companions by night, passed into Italy and went to the court of King Daunus, who killed him by a trick. In Corinth , they planned to combine their forces and attack their lost kingdoms one at a time. This plan could not be accomplished because, they say, Nestor opposed it, arguing that Hellas should not be torn to pieces by a series of civil wars. Red-figured kalix-krater bowl for mixing wine and water with the rescue of Aithra by Demophon and Akamas. Athens about BC. Odysseus Odysseus wandered ten years. The case was submitted to the judgment of King Neoptolemus of Epirus, who condemned him to exile. Some think that Neoptolemus judged in this way because he wanted to get possession of the island of Cephallenia, which is close to Ithaca. Odysseus is also reported to have gone to Thesprotia in Epirus, where he offered a certain sacrifice, following the instructions he had received in the Underworld from Tiresias. In any case, Odysseus returned to Ithaca, where he died. Philoctetes emigrated to Italy. Phidippus, who had led an army from Cos, settled in Andros the most northerly of the Cyclades Islands. Agapenor from Arcadia settled in Cyprus. Podalirius, following the instructions of the oracle at Delphi , settled in Caria southwestern Asia Minor. Aeneas then, forced to leave, passed to Italy. It is said that those four Trojans migrated to the Thracian Chersonese, and settled there with twelve hundred followers. Bottom line by Dares According to Dares, the war lasted ten years, six months and twelve days, and After the war, Aeneas departed, along with 3.

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### Chapter 2 : EURIPIDES, Trojan Women

*ePub: After The Trojan War: Women Of Troy, Hecuba, Helen (Absolute Classics) By Euripides If you are looking for a ebook After the Trojan War: Women of Troy, Hecuba, Helen (Absolute Classics) by Euripides in pdf form, then you have come on to correct website.*

Together, the two gods discuss ways to punish the Greeks, and conspire to destroy the home-going Greek ships in revenge. As the dawn comes, the dethroned Trojan queen Hecuba awakens in the Greek camp to mourn her tragic fate and curse Helen as the cause, and the Chorus of captive Trojan women echoes her cries. The Greek herald Talthybius arrives to tell Hecuba what will befall her and her children: However, as though to crush these pitiful hopes, Talthybius arrives and reluctantly informs her that Astyanax has been condemned to be thrown from the battlements of Troy to his death, rather than risk the boy growing up to avenge his father, Hector. He warns further that if Andromache tries to cast a curse on the Greek ships, then the baby will be allowed no burial. Andromache, cursing Helen for causing the war in the first place, is taken away to the Greek ships, while a soldier bears the child away to his death. The Spartan king Menelaus enters and protests to the women that he came to Troy to revenge himself on Paris and not to take back Helen, but Helen is nevertheless to return to Greece where a death sentence awaits her. Helen is brought before him, still beautiful and alluring after all that has happened, and she begs Menelaus to spare her life, claiming that she was bewitched by the goddess Cypris and that she did attempt to return to Menelaus after the spell was broken. Hecuba scorns her unlikely story, and warns Menelaus that she will betray him again if she is allowed to live, but he remains implacable, merely ensuring that she travel back on a ship other than his own. Andromache had wished to bury her child herself, performing the proper rituals according to Trojan ways, but her ship has already departed, and it falls to Hecuba to prepare the body of her grandson for burial. As the play closes and flames rise from the ruins of Troy, Hecuba makes a last desperate attempt to kill herself in the fire, but is restrained by the soldiers. She and the remaining Trojan women are taken off to the ships of their Greek conquerors. Although in technical terms it is perhaps not a great play - it has little developing plot, little construction or action and little relief or variety in tone - its message is timeless and universal. In contrast, the women of Troy, notably Hecuba, appear to shoulder their burdens with nobility and decency. Led by the circumstances they find themselves in, the Trojan women, Hecuba in particular, repeatedly question their faith in the traditional pantheon of gods and their dependence on them, and the futility of expecting wisdom and justice from the gods is expressed again and again. The gods are portrayed in the play as jealous, head-strong and capricious, which would have greatly disturbed the more politically conservative contemporaries of Euripides, and it is perhaps no surprise that the play did not win in the Dionysia dramatic competition, despite its obvious quality. The main Trojan women around whom the play revolves are deliberately portrayed as very unlike each other: Each of the women is granted a dramatic and spectacular entrance into the play, and each reacts to the tragic circumstances in her own individual way. The other less grand but equally pitiful women of the Chorus also have their say and, in calling attention to the grief of the ordinary women of Troy, Euripides reminds us that the grand ladies of the court are now just as much slaves as they are, and that their sorrows are actually very similar in nature. Of the two male characters in the play, Menelaus is portrayed as weak and officious, while the Greek herald Talthybius is represented as a sensitive and decent man caught up in a world of depravity and grief, a much more complex character than the usual anonymous herald of Greek tragedy, and the only Greek in the whole play who is presented with any positive attributes at all. Resources English translation Internet Classics Archive:

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### Chapter 3 : The character of Hecuba in The Trojan Women from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

*After the Trojan War: Women of Troy, Hecuba, Helen (Absolute Classics) [Euripides, Kenneth McLeish] on www.nxgvision.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Kenneth McLeish's stunning translations of three plays exploring the Trojan War, by one of the great Athenian dramatists.*

Alexander Paris, Palamedes, Troades. Most men are dead. Prologos Poseidon and Athena in front of the walls of Troy. Poseidon helped build the walls, and now laments their destruction. The Trojan Women are about to be parcelled out to the victors. Athena promises to help Poseidon get revenge for the Greek victory. They imagine who will be given to whom, and imagine their future lives of work and shame in Greek households. Talthybius informs the Women of the names of their future masters, to whom they have been assigned by lot. Cassandra is to belong to Agamemnon cf. She sings of the future with Agamemnon, predicting his death. There is hope for revenge. Cassandra predicts the future sufferings of Odysseus and of Agamemnon. She bids farewell to her mother, Hecuba, and departs for the ships. Hecuba bewails the contrast between her youthful glory and aged suffering. She laments the separation from dead husband and sons, and from the women Chorus: Lament for the capture of Troy, through the device of the Wooden Horse. Andromache and Astyanax appear. Death of Polyxena is reported. Hecuba advises Andromache to bring Astyanax up to be the Avenger of Troy. Talthybius reports that a decision has been made to kill Astyanax. Andromache bids farewell to her son and hands him over to Talthybius. Troy was once captured by Heracles and Telamon the Salaminian. Hecuba urges him toward mercilessness, but when he threatens to kill Helen, Helen asks to be heard. She claims she was taken by force by Paris; Hecuba says she is a liar. Hecuba says she went willingly, and that she was happy in Troy with Paris, who was smitten with her charms. Menelaus believes his wife is lying, but influenced himself by her beauty he orders her to be put on the boat, taken back to Sparta and prepared for punishment. Troy is being ruined, by Gods and men both. Husbands and children have died in the war; but the wives, mothers, and sisters remain to suffer EXODOS Talthybius enters with the body of Astyanax. Chorus mourns with Hecuba. Talthybius returns and orders the women to be ready to leave. Hecuba bids farewell to Troy, and thinks of leaping into the flames. Chorus laments fallen Troy. Hecuba prays to the dead. Women turn toward the Greek ships.

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## Chapter 4 : Trojan Women | [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*It follows the fates of Hecuba, Andromache, Cassandra and the other women of Troy after their city has been sacked, their husbands killed, and their remaining families about to be taken away as slaves (it runs parallel to the events in Euripides' play "Hecuba").*

Why is Athena angry with the Greek army? What are her intentions? What does Poseidon agree to do? The Parados is normally the opening Choral Song. As the actor delivers the Strophe he yes, "he" as women characters were played by men moves from one side of the stage toward the other. When the antistrophe is delivered, the actor turns around and moves in the opposite direction back across the stage. What is her condition? Hecuba uses the image of ships to characterize her attitude or the attitude she thinks or wishes she could muster. She begins here then by doing some psychology on herself. Hecuba faces the deepest of grief. The question implied is how to proceed in such a dire situation. How does one master sorrow? Hecuba fills us in on the past. This is common in all Parados -- we get the history of what has occurred. Her anger is directed at Helen. Why not the Greek warriors instead? She is lamenting being old and a slave. She thinks of better days, underscoring how war has taken her from riches to rags. The women are waiting to find out their fate as slaves and who will go where, on what ship with what Greek warrior. The tone is bleak. The ships are preparing to leave and the women must say good-bye to their native land forever. Euripides plays on the falsity of hope in a reality of despair. Hope it seems is a useless, even bitter, thing. The historian Thucydides a contemporary of Euripides argues that "hope" is a false or empty vessel. It is foolish and even dangerous. Under what circumstance would hope be foolish or dangerous? What is her curse? One may sense that Hecuba still hopes that her daughter will somehow prevail against this horrific situation. Her inquiries in Episode 2 begin not with the her own fate, but with the fate of her children. The worst nightmare is to be forced to lie in the Greek bed. The chorus speculates that perhaps some of the women will end up in the most beautiful of Greek cities but we can see this as folly, or the twisted illusion of hope. We know that Poseidon and Athena plan to annihilate many of the ships and thus many of these women will drown before ever seeing the shores of Greece. Second Episode What do we learn from the dialogue? What suspicions does Hecuba have about her daughter Cassandra? What does she suspect about her own fate? Enter Talthybuis, a herald of the Greek Army. This guy is almost comic in his lack of understanding, a stuttering milksop whom the Trojan Women hardly fear in contrast to Agamemnon and the other formidable warriors. He says they are "personally assigned" each to a man. When Hecuba learns that her daughter is the prize of Agamemnon she says her daughter is thrown away. Talthybuis replies, "So it goes for nothing to share the bed of a King? Hecuba does not answer this question. What is the effect of the long pause here? Hecuba partially realizes what has happened to her youngest child, Polyxena. Notice her composure at the news she receives, which is amazing. Perhaps because it is presented to her as a riddle she can deny the truth. Yet when Andromache tells her straight in Episode Four, Hecuba still maintains her stoicism. We have the opening Parados to tell us that she has somehow resolved to "change with the spirit of change. Why are the Greeks reduced to such actions, actions that have even turned Athena and Poseidon against them? The son of Achilles, Neoptolemus which means new war , gets Andromache. This is a can of worms itself. Hecuba goes to Odysseus which is consistent in that of all the warriors, Odysseus seems the least interested in young women as concubines. What do the torches signify? The torch symbolizes the archaic system of justice: Cassandra of course will know all this. She appears mad, her dance is manic and frightens the Trojan Women, but her knowledge of the future brings a cold relish of joy to the scene -- revenge on Agamemnon will become reality. Third Episode What prediction does Cassandra make about Odysseus? Cassandra will be a lethal bride to Agamemnon. Cassandra should be seen in contrast to the other Trojan Women, especially her mother Hecuba. Euripides is saying that some women may have the power to stand up to the institutionalized power of the male warrior class? She also knows of what she calls "obscenities" back in Argos and other Greek cities for that matter that are taking

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place while these men, these Greek warriors, have been ten years gone to war. In the *Odyssey*, it is the wife of Odysseus -- Penelope -- who stands in contrast to Clytemnestra and thus comes to represent the good woman archetype defined primarily by sexual loyalty to her husband. See sees the Trojans as better off. He says that he would not let Cassandra anywhere near his bed; thus the great Agamemnon is not one whit superior to nonentities like himself. In this statement, Talthybius is certainly correct, but he is still a lackey for he says this for all the wrong reasons; he is entirely clueless about the real threat that Cassandra represents. Exit Talthybius and Cassandra. Hecuba has collapsed to the ground. Her speech to the Chorus of Trojan Women epitomizes the sense of absolute hopelessness brought on by extreme loss: Happiness resides not in life but in death alone. Can things get worse? Remember that Hecuba has said to the women in the *Parados* to expect it. The Fourth Episode reveals yet even more misery, one disaster follows another. Summary of the Fall of Troy by the Chorus as an Ode. Andromache and Hecuba share their collective sorrow as lyric dialogue. Fourth Episode Who does Andromache call upon for help? What is the grim plight of mothers in war? What does Andromache tell Hecuba about Polyxena? What does Andromache say about her death? Are there things worse than death? Hope again is seen as illusion. One is a nothingness, the other hope. Mother, mother, listen, is a greater truth -- if I can only touch your heart with it. Never to have been born I count as death, a death superior to a life of bitterness. In death there is no pain, no awareness of struggle; but one who falls from happiness to tragedy is driven with regret and memories of blessedness. In death it is as if Polyxena had never known the light and nothing of her trials. But I who aimed at happiness hardly had attained it when it went. Even if a woman has no other mark against her, one single flaw will bring her to notoriety, which is, not keeping to the house. So that was my priority: I never allowed the frilly gossip of women to infiltrate my house, and kept to the steady counsels of my heart, with quiet tongue and eyes serene before my spouse. I knew when to rule my husband and when to let him win: I, however, feel nothing but disgust for the woman who forgets her former man and beds down with a second. Why even a dray-mare separated from the horse she pulls with shows repugnance for another partner in the yoke, this in a mere animal of a lower order without speech or reason, whereas you, my dearest Hector, were my perfect mate: But now you are no more I am about to board a ship for Greece, a prisoner of war and a subservient slave. For me, not even those vestiges of hope common to mankind are left, and I do not deceive myself with the delusion, sweet though it be of anything being right again. Hecuba has never sailed on a ship. Yet she imagines the situation that sailors face on stormy seas as an analogy for her dire situation. What is the point of her analogy? Given the opening conversation and pact between Athena and Poseidon, how does the analogy also work in reverse? How does it indicate the future of the homeward bound army? What news does the herald bring to Andromache?

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### Chapter 5 : TROJAN WOMEN by Euripides - International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama

*Euripides' play The Trojan Women, is not so much a tragic story as a portrayal of a tragic situation whereby Euripides dramatizes the postwar conditions of these women of Troy, the spoils of war. The play was produced in BCE shortly after the capture of Melos by the Athenians.*

Euripides follows the fate of the women of Troy after their city has been destroyed, after their husbands and sons have been killed, and as they await their division and enslavement by the Greeks. Poseidon and Athena Opening the play, Poseidon strategizes with Athena ways to punish the Greek armies after misconduct during the war. The women of Troy console Hecuba. Hecuba, Queen of Troy Distraught throughout most of the play, with some glimmers of hope, Hecuba comes to terms with her fate as a fallen queen-turned-slave. Paris, Prince of Troy and son of Hecuba Paris died during the war, leaving behind his mother and Helen. Menelaus, King of Sparta After the Greek army defeats Troy, Menelaus returns to retrieve Helen and administer punishment for her betrayal. Helen manipulates him and they return, as a couple, to Sparta. Helen of Troy, formerly Helen of Sparta Considered the most beautiful woman in the world in Greek mythology, Helen left her husband, Menelaus, to be with Paris in Troy. She spends the majority of her role in the play trying to defend her actions by blaming the gods and manipulating Menelaus into not punishing her. We never see her or anyone else accept personal responsibility for their role in causing the war. Here are the lessons I took away from The Trojan Women combined with some further research and real-life applications: Do not seek vengeance From the play: Vengeance is sought by Menelaus, the King of Sparta, after his wife Helen "attracted to the opulent living of the royalty in Troy" leaves the King for Paris, the handsome Prince of Troy. This is cited throughout the play as the cause of the war between Troy and Sparta. You know, typical mother-in-law issues. Unforgiveness is associated with a negative emotional state that increases blood pressure and heart rate. It also leads to release of cortisol, the stress hormone. Studies have shown that forgiveness decreases nervousness, restlessness, and sadness while increasing well being. Stop thinking that evil always wins From the play: Hecuba reminds her that Troy will be remembered forever and it will be known that the Greeks acted wrongly. And this play serves as the vehicle for communicating that knowledge! There are a TON of instances of crime paying in the short term and punishing in the long term. Some of these issues are still working themselves out, but these people fell hard and fast. Unethical people pay the price of their decisions through erosion of relationships, lack of happiness, and poor mental and physical health. Plus, the fall to the bottom is hard once people find out how awful you are. Be careful when you make decisions because every action has a reaction. Come to terms with the fact that materialism corrupts and that includes you From the play: Helen is attracted to the opulent living in Troy and the physical attractiveness of Paris, Prince of Troy. She abandons her husband and her home for shallow desires. In the end, she is hated by both the Greeks and Trojans, with both sides wishing her harm, but her grip is tight as she manipulates them with her beauty and deceptiveness. Studies have shown that we experience a short-term increase in happiness right after we buy something, but we then return to our baseline happiness level very soon after. Money only boosts happiness when it brings and individual out of an impoverished situation. Friendship activates oxytocin, which reduces stress hormones, and is one of the most powerful determinants of happiness. By realizing the science behind consumption, we can curtail our focus of attainment of physical items and refocus our efforts on building relationships. Expediency is punishable From the play: Helen left Greece to live a better life in Troy comfort-wise and was quick to manipulate Menelaus and tell him her actions were the fault of the gods instead of her own fault because she feared being punished. Humans naturally desire to punish people who act with expediency and self-interest. We are naturally compassionate creatures but we also choose who we exclude from that compassion "often those who display selfish behaviors. You might even find that others will begin to root for your success instead of being unnecessarily competitive with you. An effective apology includes: Align your values with your actions From the play: A person who is in the right work is excited to get up in the

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morning and make progress on a project that they are passionate about and that their skills and interests are aligned with. Tweet at me with your thoughts.

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## Chapter 6 : The Trojan Women

*Helen takes place seven years after the end of the War. In Egypt - treated as a backwater, far from 'real' events - Helen waits anxiously for her husband Menelaus to rescue her. One of the greatest and most influential of the Greek tragedians, Euripides, is said to have produced 92 plays, the first of which appeared in BC.*

It is a story that follows a few women who were once powerful figures in Troy after the city has been captured by the Greeks. Cassandra finds herself uncertain of her future and unable to fulfil her life as planned. In this story, Cassandra is often referred to negatively due to her curse. She is believed to be a madwoman, but is spared due to the favor she has found with Agamemnon. From birth, Cassandra was cursed to have no one believe her despite her position as a prophet. This results in her receiving no aid by the Greeks both during and after the Trojan War. She is likened to a wild temptress, as her attempts to convey the impending danger her people face goes ignored. Her mother, Hecuba, is well revered by the imprisoned Trojan women due to once holding an important position in Troy. After the city was captured and burnt to the ground, previous positions in society were also lost. However, the Greeks were able to conquer Troy and slay many of those defending the city, leaving lots of women without position or guardian. Those without a husband become victim to the will of the newly powerful Greeks. The fall of Troy is a consequence of the chaos induced by the arrival of Helen into the city. Hecuba fears for her daughter, since she is aware that many conquered women will most likely become slaves to the Greeks. This is not the fate of Cassandra, who was intended at birth to be a virgin to serve Apollo as a priestess. He has made her a prophet with the ability to foretell the future with perfect accuracy, but her skills go unappreciated. This is because she has been cursed since birth that no one will believe her. Cassandra does not fulfil this role either, as she has captured the attention of Agamemnon. She has been chosen to be his lover and mistress. He is the King of Ithaca, so her work will be performed begrudgingly yet in a rather glamorous setting. Cassandra is happy with her impending pairing with Agamemnon, as it will result in his death. Cassandra is not upset by this as she sees the death of Agamemnon as revenge for the deaths of her father and beloved ones. She tells of this fate, but is ignored as her curse prevents anyone from believing her. She tells of the obstacles that Odysseus will face in his upcoming journey. Her warnings are brushed off and she is berated due to her apparent insanity. She becomes known as a madwoman who is only to serve Agamemnon. It soon becomes apparent that though she is cursed so that no one will listen to her, at least she is able to know her future. She understands that she will bring about the death of Agamemnon using his wife as the weapon, despite her not directly controlling the situation. Regardless of the lack of direct cause, Cassandra accepts that she will play a role in the murder and is content to indirectly enact revenge.



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### Chapter 7 : List of children of Priam - Wikipedia

*The most beautiful mortal woman in the world. Formerly of Sparta and wife of the warrior King Menelaus, Helen eloped to Troy with Paris, causing the Trojan War. At the end of ten years of battle, the other characters, Hecuba and Menelaus especially, blame her for all the lives lost and the destruction wrought.*

As queen of Troy, she is an important character in the tales of the Trojan War. While pregnant with Paris, Hecuba had a dream in which she gave birth to a fiery torch that was covered with snakes. This was considered a sign from the gods; the prophets of Troy, who were believed to be able to see the future, told her that if her child lived, he would be responsible for the fall of Troy. When Paris was born, Hecuba ordered two servants to kill the child. Unable to perform such a terrible act, the servants left Paris on a mountain to die, and he was found and raised by a shepherd. All the rulers of Greece had sworn to defend Helen. To rescue her, they declared war on Troy, sacking and burning it after a long and persistent attack. Before the war, Hecuba had asked Polymestor to protect her son Polydorus. However, upon reaching Thrace, she found that the king had killed the boy. As Odysseus was trying to control her, she turned into a dog. Her tomb was placed on a rocky outcrop located on a narrow strip of water called the Hellespont pronounced HEL-uh-spont between Greece and Turkey.

**Hecuba in Context** In ancient times of war, it was common for members of the losing side—particularly family members of the leaders—to be taken as slaves by the victorious soldiers. In tales of the Trojan War, the surviving women of Trojan royalty, Cassandra and Hecuba, are taken as slaves by Agamemnon and Odysseus, respectively. This was done as a way to gain slave labor, but, more importantly, it served as a final humiliation to the fallen men of Troy to have their women become the property of their Greek captors. An important theme in the tale of Hecuba is destiny, or the idea that future events have already been determined by the gods. This ferocity is illustrated by her transformation into a dog.

**Read, Write, Think, Discuss** Throughout history, the victorious side in a war traditionally has been able to take anything of value from the losing side, including land, treasures, or people. Although slaves are no longer considered appropriate spoils of war, many other treasures are often taken from countries in the wake of their defeat. Do you think a country or group of countries that wins a war against another country automatically has rights to claim property or land from their defeated foes? What about historical artifacts? Should victorious troops be allowed to take items from citizens of a defeated country who did not participate in battle?

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### Chapter 8 : The Legend of Helen of Troy – Part Two | Ancient Origins

*In these three ancient tragedies, Euripides dramatizes the fate of women in the wake of the Trojan War. The women are spoils of war, instigators of revenge, and pawns used by the gods, and Euripides.*

Hecuba was the queen of Troy in the period of the Trojan War, whose story is chronicled in the Iliad and other classical works of literature. In addition to being a queen, she was also a prophetess who would reveal several bad omens of future events involving the fall of Troy. Origin The exact origin of Hecuba is not known. Some accounts tell that she was the daughter of King Cisseus of Thrace, and others list Sangarius, one of the river gods, and the river nymph Metope as her parents. There are other accounts still with varying combinations. The question of her parentage, and the combination of mother and father, is an open and very varied one. Family Hecuba was married to King Priam, becoming his second wife. Together they had 19 children, with some of the more well-known being Cassandra, Hector, Paris, and Polydorus. History The story of Hecuba takes place before, during, and after the Trojan War, and includes a number of battles and encounters with the gods. In this dream, rather than giving birth to a normal baby, she brought forth a fiery torch covered in snakes. She sought out the prophets of Troy to interpret this dream, and they revealed that it was a troubling omen. The omen predicted that if her child lived, he would be responsible for the fall and destruction of Troy. Hecuba could not bear this news and as Paris was being born, she ordered two of her servants to kill him. The servants were unable to murder a helpless baby, however, and instead left Paris on the side of a mountain to be taken by wild beasts. But a shepherd soon found Paris and raised him as his own son. Since all the rulers of Greece had sworn to defend Helen, they declared war on Troy, sacking and burning the city and thus fulfilling the prophecy in a siege of ruin and flame. She offered the libation cup to him, urging him to make an offering to Zeus and also to drink from it himself. The gown in question was beautifully embellished with embroidery, glittering like a star whenever it caught even a hint of light. The gown had been brought back from Sidon when Alexander sailed the seas and was the work of Sidonian women. In one final attempt, Hecuba pleaded with Hector not to confront Achilles, but he would not hear of it. That evening, Hector duelled with Achilles, and met his death. Apollo and Troilus Hecuba would later have a child with Apollo, and another prophecy was made: But Achilles waited in ambush while Troilus was riding his horse near a well at the front of the city. Troilus fled to the temple of Apollo, and was slain at the altar and then dragged by his own horses, sealing the fate of the city to doom and ruin in fulfillment of the omen. Slavery to Odysseus As if she had not been through enough trials already, Hecuba would be taken prisoner by, and then become a slave to, Odysseus. When the Greeks reached the Thracian Chersonese on their way home, Hecuba discovered that Polymestor had betrayed her trust and killed Polydorus. As Odysseus tried to stop her, she was transformed into a dog by the gods so that she could escape. She was never seen again, until her death when she threw herself into the sea. Her tomb could be found on a rocky outcrop, the Hellespont between Greece and Turkey, and would become an important landmark for sailors.

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### Chapter 9 : Euripides, Trojan Women – A Brief History of Cassandra

*The former Queen of Troy. She is arguably the play's protagonist; she never exits the stage, and acts as the Trojan Women's emotional heart. Once a proud noblewoman, a loving wife, and a doting mother, with Troy's defeat Hecuba has been reduced to a slave.*

Plot[ edit ] Hecuba: Ilium is ablaze; the fire consumes the citadel, the roofs of our city, the tops of the walls! Like smoke blown to heaven on the wings of the wind, our country, our conquered country, perishes. Its palaces are overrun by the fierce flames and the murderous spear. O land that reared my children! However, it begins first with the gods Athena and Poseidon discussing ways to punish the Greek armies because they condoned that Ajax the Lesser raped Cassandra, the eldest daughter of King Priam and Queen Hecuba, after dragging her from a statue of Athena. What follows shows how much the Trojan women have suffered as their grief is compounded when the Greeks dole out additional deaths and divide their shares of women. The Greek herald Talthybius arrives to tell the dethroned queen Hecuba what will befall her and her children. However, Cassandra is also cursed so that her visions of the future are never believed, and she is carried off. The widowed princess Andromache arrives and Hecuba learns from her that her youngest daughter, Polyxena, has been killed as a sacrifice at the tomb of the Greek warrior Achilles. Talthybius reluctantly informs her that her baby son, Astyanax, has been condemned to die. The Greek leaders are afraid that the boy will grow up to avenge his father Hector, and rather than take this chance, they plan to throw him off from the battlements of Troy to his death. Helen, though not one of the Trojan women, is supposed to suffer greatly as well: Menelaus arrives to take her back to Greece with him where a death sentence awaits her. Helen begs and tries to seduce her husband into sparing her life. Menelaus remains resolved to kill her, but the audience watching the play knows that he will let her live and take her back. Talthybius gives the corpse to Hecuba, who prepares the body of her grandson for burial before they are finally taken off with Odysseus. Throughout the play, many of the Trojan women lament the loss of the land that reared them. Hecuba in particular lets it be known that Troy had been her home for her entire life, only to see herself as an old grandmother watching the burning of Troy, the death of her husband, her children, and her grandchildren before she will be taken as a slave to Odysseus. With staging by Romanian-born theater director Andrei Serban and music by American composer Elizabeth Swados, this production of *The Trojan Women* went on to tour more than thirty countries over the course of forty years. Since, *The Trojan Women Project* has been sharing this production with diverse communities that now include Guatemala, Cambodia and Kosovo. A Festival of work from all participants is scheduled for December, The French public intellectual, Jean-Paul Sartre wrote a version of *The Trojan Women* that mostly is faithful to the original Greek text, yet includes veiled references to European imperialism in Asia, and emphases of existentialist themes. The Israeli playwright Hanoch Levin also wrote his own version of the play, adding more disturbing scenes and scatological details. Although it is set in 19th century Africa, Osofisan has said that the play was also inspired by the invasion of Iraq by the U. In anticipation of his soon-to-come multimedia production of *A Clockwork Orange*, Mays utilized a marginal multimedia approach to the play, opening the piece with a faux CNN report intended to echo the then-current war in Iraq. Mee adapted *The Trojan Women* to have a more modern, updated outlook on war. He included original interviews with Holocaust and Hiroshima survivors. His play is called *The Trojan Women 2*.