

The Delphi Complete Works of Terence: An Illustrated Exploration of Ancient Roman Comedy



Delphi Complete Works of Terence (Illustrated) (Delphi Ancient Classics Book 6) by Claude Debussy

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 2895 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 881 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Publius Terentius Afer, known as Terence, was a renowned playwright of the Roman Republic. Born in Carthage in 195 BC, he became a slave in Rome but was later freed due to his literary talent. Terence's six plays, written between 166 and 160 BC, revolutionized Roman comedy and continue to be studied and performed today.

The Delphi Edition

The Delphi Complete Works of Terence presents a comprehensive collection of his plays in one meticulously crafted volume. This illustrated edition offers an immersive experience, featuring:

- **Complete Plays:** All six of Terence's plays are included: "The Woman of Andros," "The Mother-in-Law," "The Self-Tormentor," "The Eunuch," "Phormio," and "The Brothers."
- **Detailed Annotations:** Each play is accompanied by extensive annotations that provide historical context, literary analysis, and cultural insights.
- **Stunning Illustrations:** Over 100 illustrations enhance the reading experience, bringing to life the characters, settings, and themes of

Terence's plays.

- **Critical Essays:** Renowned scholars contribute essays exploring Terence's literary style, social commentary, and legacy.
- **Interactive Timeline:** An interactive timeline allows readers to visualize Terence's life and work within the context of ancient Roman history.

Terence's Literary Genius

Terence was a master of the "comedy of manners," a genre that satirized the social behaviors and foibles of Roman society. His plays are known for their:

- **Witty Dialogue:** Terence's characters engage in clever and often hilarious exchanges, showcasing his mastery of language and humor.
- **Well-developed Characters:** Terence's characters are complex and believable, representing a wide range of social classes and perspectives.
- **Social Commentary:** While entertaining, Terence's plays often contain subtle critiques of Roman society, exposing the hypocrisy and inequalities of the time.
- **Humanist Themes:** Underlying Terence's comedy is a profound belief in the capacity for human goodness and the importance of human relationships.

A Window into Ancient Roman Comedy

Through Terence's plays, readers gain a unique glimpse into the world of ancient Roman comedy. His works provide:

- **A Historical Perspective:** Terence's plays offer a reflection of Roman society during the late Republic, giving insights into the customs, beliefs, and values of the time.
- **A Literary Legacy:** Terence's comedies have influenced generations of playwrights and continue to be performed and studied worldwide.
- **A Timeless Appeal:** Despite the centuries that have passed, Terence's plays remain relevant and relatable, offering insights into human nature and the complexities of society.

The Delphi Complete Works of Terence is an essential resource for anyone seeking to explore the brilliance of ancient Roman comedy. This illustrated edition provides an immersive and comprehensive journey into Terence's theatrical world, offering a deep understanding of his literary genius, social commentary, and enduring legacy.



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