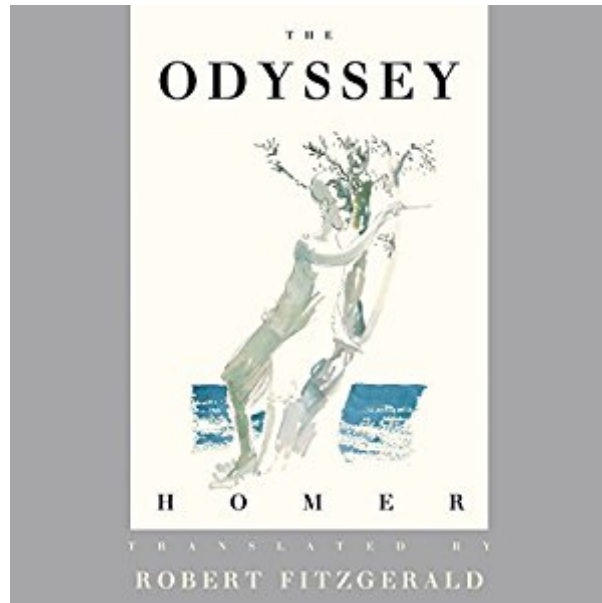


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# The Odyssey: The Fitzgerald Translation



## Synopsis

Robert Fitzgerald's translation of *The Odyssey* has been the standard translation for more than three generations of students and poets. Macmillan Audio is delighted to publish the first ever audio edition of this classic work, the greatest of all epic poems. Fitzgerald's supple verse is ideally suited for audio, recounting the story of Odysseus' long journey back to his wife and home after the Trojan War. Homer's tale of love, adventure, food and drink, sensual pleasure, and mortal danger reaches the English-language listener in all its glory. In keeping with the oral tradition of the time, Dan Stevens, whose many celebrated performances include *Downton Abbey's* Matthew Crawley, makes this epic tale come alive. The listener becomes totally immersed in the adventure and drama of the story - this is the way *The Odyssey* was meant to be experienced. Also included on the program is a portion of the poem read in ancient Greek so that listeners may experience the lyricism and music of the original language.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 15 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Macmillan Audio

Audible.com Release Date: September 2, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00HUC357Q

Best Sellers Rank: #6 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Poetry #20

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Ancient, Classical & Medieval > Ancient & Classical

#21 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > European

## Customer Reviews

Robert Fitzgerald's translations are among my favorites. While it is virtually impossible to translate Dactylic Hexameter into English, Fitzgerald still captures much of the power and majesty of Homer in his translation. Now, it is conceded that the *Odyssey* is technically inferior to the *Iliad*. It is for this reason that the majority of Homeric scholars believe he wrote the *Odyssey* first, THEN the *Iliad*. In any case, the *Odyssey* is still an awesome piece of literature and has enjoyed an enormous influence over all of western thought for close to 3,000 years. It is dubious to believe too many of

today's poets / authors will still be remembered 2,500+ years from now. As always with classic literature, I would admonish anyone interested in reading the Odyssey to first consult everything that has gone before, such as the Judgment of Paris & the Iliad, etc. The tale will make SO MUCH more sense that way. As one can see by the negative reviews to this work, Homer is not for those who are only interested in instant gratification. If you cannot get interested in a book which may take you a month to read & a lifetime to truly understand, Homer is not for you. On the other hand, if you're really intrigued by Greek mythology, history or literature, this book is an ABSOLUTE must. It is one of the great cornerstones of all western literature. I am quite certain that people will still be reading Homer 3,000 years from now.

We never had to read this in school. It kept us engaged for a 2500 mile car journey. The language is beautiful because of the Fitzgerald translation and the reader (the actor who played the late Matthew Crawley on Downton Abbey) was a delight. Highly recommend.

Actually, and I know, everybody else loves this, but I do not. It is not the book and it is not the translation. It is the reader. What were they thinking? Odysseus was at war at Troy for 10 years and then wandered the known world for another 10. Remember, at the end, Odysseus wept. This gentleman does not sound like he knows how to use a hammer let alone which end of a stick to put in the eye of a Cyclops. The British accent here is "cute," but he sounds 12. There is no passion in this chap's voice, no echo from a struggle, no boar tusk wound in his tone, no loves lost or gained. I am sure he is a nice young man. Yet he would not know one end of a javelin from the other let alone be able to remind me of a man who stood before the walls of Troy with his men, losing them left and right, for 10 years. Sure, - if this were the only trireme in the audio harbor and you had to find a ship to Pylos, roll up your himation and jump. Still, you do not get a 23 year old to read Hemingway - it does not work. I know. It is a question of style, but, after all, it is Homer.

This work, so accessible with Fitzgerald's translation, proves again to be a timeless piece of literature. Not a line is unfathomable. It all makes sense, and makes the reader read (or in my case listen) on. This audible version read by Dan Stevens is clear and announced without any undue drama but fluently and earnestly. I can find no flaw with this production; it is truly enjoyable to hear, once again, the tales of Odysseus and the brilliant way they are told by Homer, the master storyteller.

For all practical purposes, this CD is permanently installed in my car. It is so good to listen to that I sometimes almost hope for bad traffic.

THE READER IS EXCELLENT AND THIS IS THE FIRST AND BEST ACTION ADVENTURE STORY OF THE PAST 2500 YEARS

Told the way it should be told - orally and a great translation too.

This really helped my son through this difficult book. Thank you.

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