

**ANDROMACHE: A
PLAY IN
THREE ACTS**

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Andromache: A Play in Three Acts by Gilbert Murray

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GILBERT MURRAY

**ANDROMACHE: A
PLAY IN
THREE ACTS**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

Paper, 2s. 6d. ; Cloth, 3s. 6d.

CARLYON SAHIB

A Drama in Four Acts

LONDON : WILLIAM HEINEMANN
22 Bedford Street, W.C.

ANDROMACHE

A PLAY
In Three Acts

By
GILBERT MURRAY

LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN

MDCCC

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Reg. by 21
Smith
10-21-42
46262

PREFATORY LETTER.

MY DEAR ARCHER,

The germ of this play sprang into existence on a certain April day in 1896 which you and I spent chiefly in dragging our reluctant bicycles up the great hills that surround Riveaulx Abbey, and discussing, so far as the blinding rain allowed us, the questions whether all sincere comedies are of necessity cynical, and how often we had had tea since the morning, and how far it would be possible to treat a historical subject loyally and unconventionally on a modern stage. Then we struck (as, I fear, is too often the fate of those who converse with me) on the subject of the lost plays of the Greek tragedians. We talked of the extraordinary variety of plot that the Greek dramatist found in his historical tradition, the force, the fire, the depth and richness of character-play. We thought of the marvellous dramatic possibilities of an age in which actual and living heroes and sages were to be seen moving against a background of primitive superstition and blank savagery; in which the soul of man walked more free from

12-16-42 O.K.S.

PREFATORY LETTER

trappings than seems ever to have been permitted to it since. But I must stop; I see that I am approaching the common pitfall of playwrights who venture upon prefaces, and am beginning to prove how good my play ought to be!

What I want to remind you of is this: that we agreed that a simple historical play, with as little convention as possible, placed in the Greek Heroic Age, and dealing with one of the ordinary heroic stories, ought to be, well, an interesting experiment. Beyond this point, I know, we began to differ. You wanted verse and the Greece of the English poets. I wanted, above all things, a nearer approach to my conception of the real Greece, the Greece of history and even—dare I say it?—of anthropology! I recognise your full right to disapprove of every word and every sentiment of this play from the first to the last, but I hope you will not grudge me the pleasure of associating your name with at least the inception of the experiment, and thanking you at the same time for the many gifts of friendly encouragement and stimulating objection which you have bestowed upon

Yours sincerely,

GILBERT MURRAY.

January 1900.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| PYRRHUS . . . | <i>Son of Achilles; King of Phthia.</i> |
| ANDROMACHE . . . | <i>Once wife of Hector, Prince of Troy; now slave to Pyrrhus.</i> |
| HERMIONE . . . | <i>Daughter of Helen, Queen of Sparta; wife to Pyrrhus.</i> |
| MOLOSSUS . . . | <i>Child of Pyrrhus and Andromache.</i> |
| ALCIMEDON or ALCIMUS | <i>An old Captain of Achilles' Myrmidons.</i> |
| ORESTES . . . | <i>Son of Agamemnon, King of Mycenæ; now banished for the slaying of his mother, Clytemnestra.</i> |
| PYLADES . . . | <i>A Prince of Phocis, friend to Orestes.</i> |

A PRIEST OF THETIS

TWO MAIDS OF HERMIONE

Certain Maidens, Myrmidons, Men-at-Arms.

The Action takes place in Phthia, on the Southern borders of Thessaly, about fifteen years after the Fall of Troy.

