



Sweet Violence: The Idea of the Tragic

By Terry Eagleton

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Terry Eagleton's *Tragedy* provides a major critical and analytical account of the concept of 'tragedy' from its origins in the Ancient world right down to the twenty-first century.

- A major new intellectual endeavour from one of the world's finest, and most controversial, cultural theorists.
- Provides an analytical account of the concept of 'tragedy' from its origins in the ancient world to the present day.
- Explores the idea of the 'tragic' across all genres of writing, as well as in philosophy, politics, religion and psychology, and throughout western culture.
- Considers the psychological, religious and socio-political implications and consequences of our fascination with the tragic.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"The aspects of tragedy I have in mind take with utmost seriousness the lethal as well as life-giving inheritances of which the present is partly made up, and which an amnesiac postmodernism has conveniently suppressed." With chapters on "The Value of Agony," "Pity, Fear and Pleasure" and "Freedom, Fate and Justice," British literary critic and political theorist Eagleton (whose well-received memoir *The Gatekeeper* is just out from St. Martin's) runs through the West's tragic literature, from Sophocles to Ibsen and beyond, to begin constructing a new, tragically informed language for the political left: "Don't settle for that set of shabby fantasies known as reality, but cling to your faith that the deathly emptiness of the dispossessed is the only source from which a more jubilant, self-delighting existence can ultimately spring." (Sept.)

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Review

"Terry Eagleton's titanic tryst with the Tragic muse crowns a career devoted to exploring the ideology of aesthetic and political form ... This is a brave and bracing book that bridges Eagleton's secular, socialist ideals with his metaphysical and theological aspirations: a remarkable comedic spirit hovers over this passionate reflection on the temper of tragedy." *Homi K. Bhabha, Harvard University*

"*Sweet Violence* has all the characteristics that compel the reader, however tested and exasperated, to admire its author. It is long, discursive, packed with illustrations drawn from enormous reading in world literature, perverse and even, quite often, funny." *New York Times*

"Eagleton has raised a banner for a terrifying but beautiful new seriousness in the arts, directly drawn from our contemporary world. It is an extraordinary achievement and ... an inspiration." *The Guardian*

"The best book Terry Eagleton has yet written." *English Studies*

From the Back Cover

In this dazzling book Terry Eagleton provides a comprehensive study of tragedy, all the way from Aeschylus to Edward Albee, dealing with both theory and practice, and moving between ideas of tragedy and analyses of particular works and authors. This amazing tour-de-force steps out beyond the stage to reflect not only on tragic art but also on real-life tragedy. It explores the idea of the tragic in the novel, examining such writers as Melville, Hawthorne, Stendhal, Tolstoy, Flaubert, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Manzoni, Goethe and Mann, as well as English novelists.

With his characteristic brilliance and inventiveness of mind, Eagleton weaves together literature, philosophy, ethics, theology, and political theory. In so doing he makes a major political-philosophical statement drawn from a startling range of Western thought, in the writings of Plato, St Paul, St Augustine, Descartes, Pascal, Spinoza, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Sartre and others.

This book takes serious issue with the idea of 'the death of tragedy', and gives a comprehensive survey of definitions of tragedy itself, arguing a radical and controversial case.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Sweeney:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book Sweet Violence: The Idea of the Tragic will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think in which open or reading any book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or appropriate book with you?

Jennifer Stanley:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Sweet Violence: The Idea of the Tragic is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Michael Clark:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write with their book. One of them is this Sweet Violence: The Idea of the Tragic.

Franklin Crossland:

A lot of reserve has printed but it is different. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, witty, novel, or whatever by simply searching from it. It is known as of book Sweet Violence: The Idea of the Tragic. You can contribute your knowledge by it. Without leaving behind the printed book, it can add your knowledge and make an individual happier to read. It is most important that, you must aware about e-book. It can bring you from one destination for a other place.

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