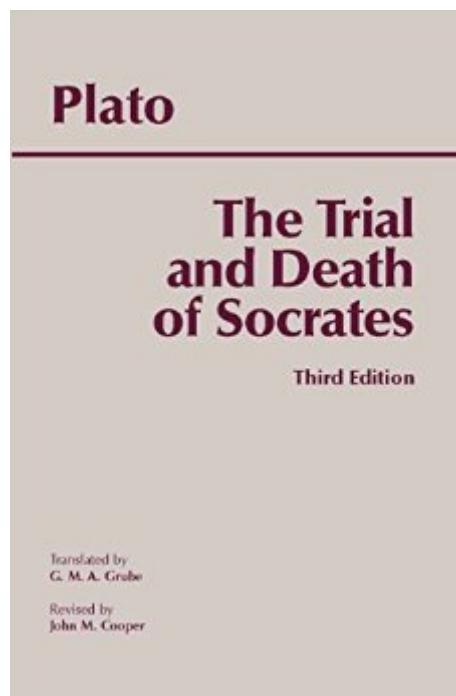


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The Trial And Death Of Socrates



Synopsis

The third edition of The Trial and Death of Socrates presents G. M. A. Grube's distinguished translations, as revised by John Cooper for Plato, Complete Works. A number of new or expanded footnotes are also included along with a Select Bibliography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Unlike the print translations of the same title, the Naxos Audiobook contains only the "Apology" and the "Phaedo." The works are presented in a not-quite full cast format, and they are as immediate as a trial from Court TV. Production values are excellent, and the actors deliver their lines in conversational fashion, without a hint of the wooden presentation that is almost impossible to avoid when speaking the written word. I have read and re-read the "Apology" several times, but never have I been so engaged by the dialogue as when I heard it in this edition. Socrates comes across as somewhat eccentric, somewhat arrogant, but completely honorable. His sense of dignity renders him incapable of mounting an effective defense against the criminal charges, and indeed he really doesn't attempt to defend against the charges. Instead, he seeks to justify himself and his career to his students and to posterity. He thoroughly achieves this aim. Unfortunately, in the process of justifying himself to posterity, he thoroughly enraged the jury, and they voted for the death penalty by a landslide. It was almost as though that was what Socrates wanted them to do. "Phaedo" records Socrates' last day, as he fearlessly faces death. In his last hours he and his friends discuss Socrates' ideas on the immortality of the human soul. Socrates wandered far afield as he spoke on

the soul, and the philosophic exposition is both flawed and uninteresting. About halfway through the dialogue, I became impatient for Socrates to go ahead and drink the hemlock and put me out of my misery. I stuck to the end, however, and having done so, I realized that the beauty of "Phaedo" lay not in the philosophy, but in the courageous and dignified bearing of Socrates as he confronted death.

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