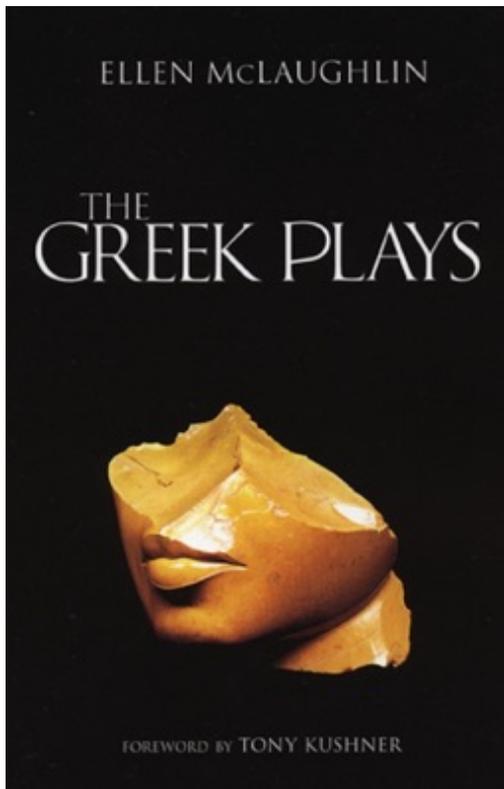


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From *The Persians*
"Defeat is impossible
Defeat is unthinkable
We have always been the favorites of fate.
Fortune has cupped us
In her golden palms.
It has only been a matter
Of choosing our desire. Which fruit
To pick from the nodding tree."

This chilling passage is from Ellen McLaughlin's new adaptation of *The Persians* by Aeschylus, the earliest surviving play in Western literature, an elegy for a fallen civilization and a warning to its new conqueror. As Margo Jefferson wrote in the *New York Times*, "The play is a true classic: we see the present and the future right there, inside the past. And when writers give us a 'new version' (a translation or adaptation) of a classic, they both serve and use it. They serve the playwright's gifts by refusing to simplify. But they can't just imitate. Every age has its own rhythms and

drives. The classic must make us feel the new acutely. Ellen McLaughlin serves and uses *The Persians* with true power and grace."

Also included in this volume: *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* (from Euripides and Sophocles); *The Trojan Women* (Euripides); *Helen* (Euripides); and *Lysistrata* (Aristophanes), all powerfully realized and as relevant today as when they were first performed.

Ellen McLaughlin's plays include *Days and Nights Within*, *A Narrow Bed*, *Infinity's House* and *Tongue of a Bird*, which have been widely produced. She is a past finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and was the co-winner of the Great American Play Contest. Also an accomplished actor, Ms. McLaughlin is most known for having originated the part of the Angel in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, appearing in every U.S. production through its Broadway run.

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Autor	:	Ellen McLaughlin
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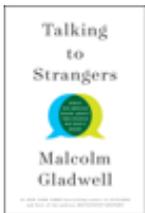
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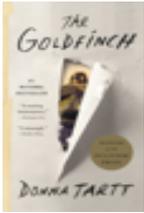
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