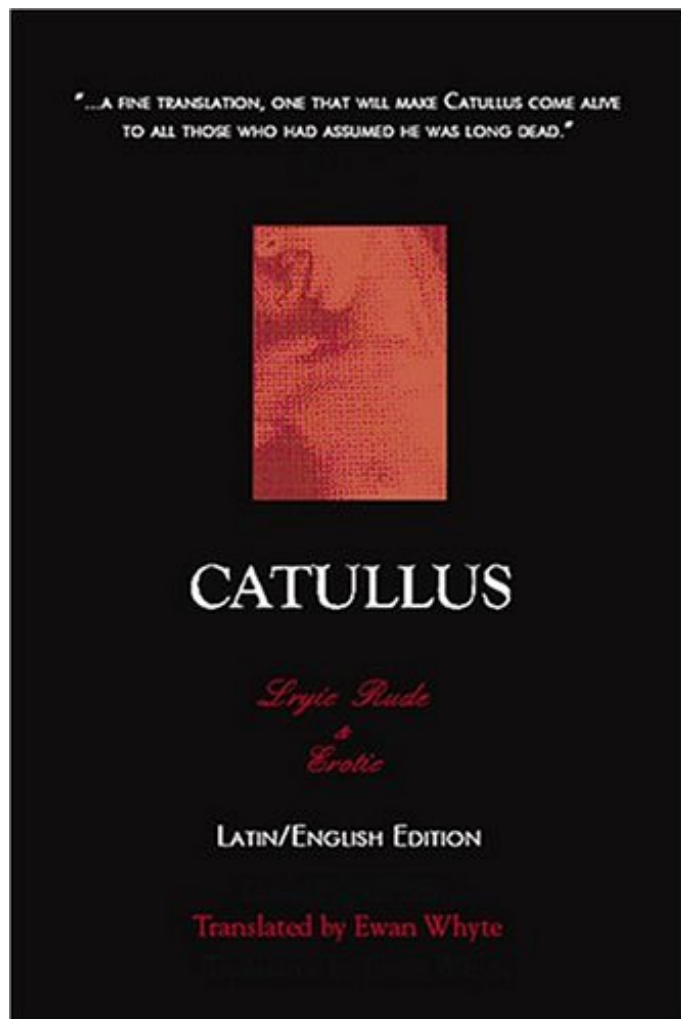

Catullus

Catullus - Bilingual Latin/English Edition



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Author: Catullus

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Description

Of all the great Latin poets, Catullus is perhaps the most accessible, as Ewan Whyte shows us with his brilliant new translation. Once reserved for 'dirty-minded' scholars and students, the earthy poetry of Catullus - sometimes bawdy and base, sometimes elegant, and never boring - gets the star treatment in this bilingual Latin/English edition. The increasing global popularity of Latin and Latin Studies mean that the time has come for a new generation to be introduced to this most fascinating and fun of great Latin writers.

Insightful reviews

Abraham: I found it very difficult not to like this fellow, this apolitical Roman playboy who survives to us as much from luck as from skill as a poet. His character is what most enthralled me. He often appears like a fifteen year-old boy: love-sick on one hand; hot-tempered, always getting into scuffles in the school yard on the other. Occasionally, he is solemn, as in the few poems he wrote to console friends after personal tragedies. Occasionally, he uses lofty language and obscure references -- but he never shrinks from vulgarity and foul language when he finds it appropriate. Above all, he is always emotional, a quality generally terrible for teenagers but great for poets.

After reading this, I don't see how anyone the least bit into poetry or Ancient Rome could afford to pass Catullus up. If nothing else, it should be a fairly short endeavor: only about 116 poems survive, the overwhelming majority under thirty lines. As for me, I will have to find better translations, and return to it at least once more.

Note: I wrote a much longer post, [On Catullus and His Poems](#), on my blog, should anyone care to read it.

Catherine Woodman: This Roman Neoteric poet lived from 84-54 BCE and he knew everyone there was to know in his time. He died before Caesar was threatened by Pompey and in response crossed the Rubicon River and embroiled the Roman Republic in a Civil War, so he did not have to ultimately choose sides there, but he had a lot to say about politicians, statemen, his friends, his lovers, and life in general. He reminds me of a blogger of today--if someone caught his fancy or pissed him off, he wrote a poem naming names. Thank goodness the one surviving copy of his work remained so that we can enjoy this remarkable man's work today.

Let's start off by noting that the poem that is on the cover, Poem 38 of the 116 that survive, begins with "Life is really a bitch". This is clean language for Cattulus. He talks explicitly about everything in his life. He describes his sexual feats (both heterosexual and homosexual) in detail, his loves and his losses, his anger and his plans for revenge. These are succinctly written and clear as glass. This is not Virgil. Nor is it read aloud poetry suitable for children. With the exception of some absolutely gorgeous descriptive poems he wrote about his hearth and home, that is, and an absolutely beautiful poem eulogizing his brother who died before him. His poetry

Ginny_1807: Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire, et quod vides perisse perditum ducas. Fulsero quondam candidi tibi soles, cum ventitabas quo puella ducebat amata nobis quantum amabitur nulla. Ibi illa multa tum iocosa fiebant, quae tu volebas nec puella nolebat. Fulsero vere candidi tibi soles. Nunc iam illa non vult: tu quoque impotens noli, nec quae fugit sectare, nec miser vive, sed obstinata mente perfer, obdura. Vale puella, iam Catullus obdurat, nec te requiret nec rogabit invitam. At tu dolebis, cum rogaberis nulla. Scelestas, vae te! Quae tibi manet vita? Quis nunc te adibit? Cui videberis bella? Quem nunc amabis? cuius esse diceris? Quem basiabis? cui labella mordebis? At tu, Catulle, destinatus obdura. (C.8)

Nikki: Catullus is maybe my favorite Latin poet. After years of Virgil, Ovid and Tacitus in my Latin class, Catullus was once a breath of unpolluted air. My buddies and that i even recited a few of his poems to one another in the course of recess, which both capability we have been overall geeks or that Catullus is simply a great deal of fun. With these thoughts in mind, I picked up this quantity of his amassed works and that i used to be no longer disappointed. No epic poems or myths here, yet bawdy, humorous and absolutely inappropriate poems. 80% of his paintings is ready sex, which is not hinted at yet crudely described. a lot of them are outright insults to humans he knew, yet oh so clever. analyzing this assortment though, i used to be stunned to discover a few longer, severe poems. In my opinion, these aren't pretty much as good as his coarser brief poems, yet they are under no circumstances bad.

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