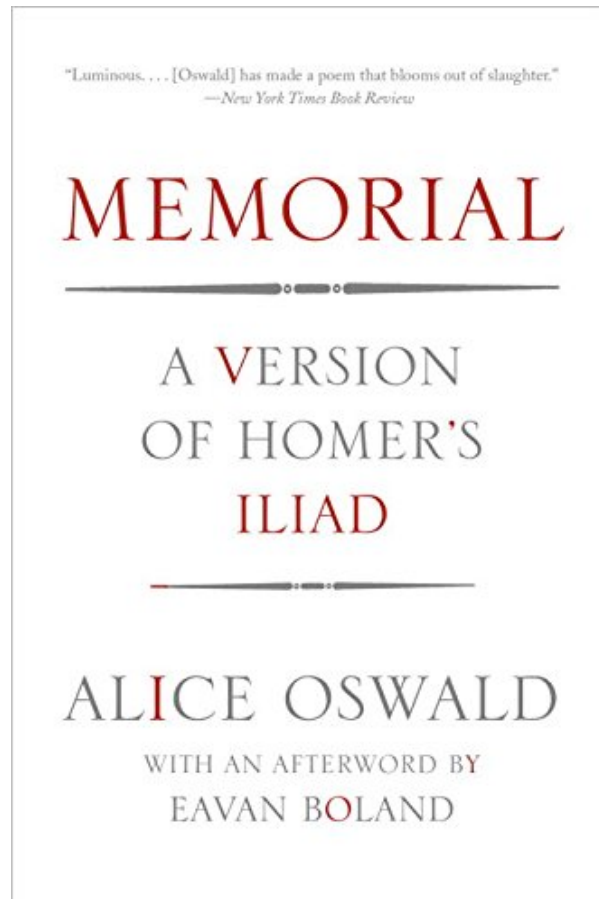


# MEMORIAL: A VERSION OF HOMER'S ILIAD BY ALICE OSWALD



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"Luminous. . . [Oswald] has made a poem that blooms out of slaughter."  
—*New York Times Book Review*

# MEMORIAL

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A VERSION  
OF HOMER'S  
ILIAD

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ALICE OSWALD

WITH AN AFTERWORD BY  
EAVAN BOLAND

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## Review

“Luminous. . . . [Oswald] has made a poem that blooms out of slaughter.” (New York Times Book Review)

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“Audacious, powerful and beautiful.” (NPR)

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“Remembering on a grand scale . . . with a freshness to match Homer’s own?as if each soldier had died on the day of writing.” (Observer)

## About the Author

Alice Oswald has been awarded the Eric Gregory Award, an Arts Foundation Award for Poetry, the Forward Prize, the Ted Hughes Award, and the T.S. Eliot Prize. She lives in Devon, England.

Eavan Boland is the author of more than a dozen volumes of poetry and nonfiction. A professor and the director of the creative writing program at Stanford University, she is the winner of a Lannan Foundation Award. She lives in Stanford, California, and Dublin, Ireland.

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# MEMORIAL: A VERSION OF HOMER'S ILIAD BY ALICE OSWALD PDF

“The most remarkable and affecting book of poetry I encountered this year.”?James Wood, The New Yorker

In this daring new work, the poet Alice Oswald strips away the narrative of the Iliad?the anger of Achilles, the story of Helen?in favor of attending to its atmospheres: the extended similes that bring so much of the natural order into the poem and the corresponding litany of the war-dead, most of whom are little more than names but each of whom lives and dies unforgettably and unforgotten in the copious retrospect of Homer’s glance. The resulting poem is a war memorial and a profoundly responsive work that gives new voice to Homer’s level-voiced version of the world. Through a mix of narrative and musical repetition, the sequence becomes a meditation on the loss of human life.

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13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Experience the Iliad again for the first time

By Judith Moore

I have read many translations of the Iliad and taught selections from it at the university level, but this is something different. With the narrative stripped away and the deaths and similes foregrounded, the poem is much shorter and even starker than the original. Oswald explains the differences in how she treats the two aspects of her version, and there's a concluding essay by Eavan Boland that highlights the technique Oswald uses of repeating the simile sections. I will read this intense and moving version many more times than once.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant idea done brilliantly

By Stephen Sossaman

Alice Oswald has written a fabulous "version" of the Iliad as interesting as Christopher Logue's reworkings. This long poem is a series of death scenes, some just one line long, followed by an apt simile, so that every human war death is illustrated by some natural occurrence, often involving predatory birds or the ocean. Oswald's frame, an opening listing of names emulating war memorials and a closing series of twelve similes, is inspired. My review at poetsandwar.com goes into more detail, but anyone who enjoys Homer should find this distillation a remarkably moving work. Brilliant imagery.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

I don't mean that she is the greatest poet writing

By Paul Trachtman

Alice Oswald may be the most exciting poet to appear since the days of Pound and Eliot. I know that's a large claim, but I've been an avid reader of poetry for over 50 years and haven't heard a new voice of this force in all that time. I don't mean that she is the greatest poet writing, as there are great poets who use less rhetorical lines, writers such as W.S. Merwin, Gary Snyder, Wendell Berry and Robert Bly. But Oswald has recaptured and re-invented the kind of large, world-shaking and world-shaping poetry that Pound and Eliot brought forth. It's amazing that her work, winning laurels in England, is so little known in the U.S. and I urge lovers of poetry to do something about that. Read her, and spread the word.

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