

Penguin Classics



HOMER  
THE ILIAD



HOMER

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THE ILIAD

TRANSLATED BY  
E. V. Rieu



PENGUIN BOOKS

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## THE ILIAD

TRANSLATED BY E. V. RIEU

The Greeks considered the *Iliad* their greatest literary achievement, and no epic poem in any language has ever rivalled it. Out of a single episode in the Tale of Troy, Achilles' withdrawal from the fighting and his return to kill the Trojan hero Hector, Homer created a timeless, dramatic tragedy. His characters are heroic but their passions and problems are human and universal, and he presents them with compassion, understanding, and humour against the harsh background of war.

E. V. Rieu's prose translation has the same direct simplicity and subtle elegance which distinguishes his *Odyssey*; it moves swiftly and confidently through the greater complexity of the *Iliad* and never falls short of the nobility of Homer's theme.

*The cover shows a section of the manuscript of the Iliad in the Ambrosiana at Milan*