



Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens

Tom Holt

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens

Tom Holt

Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens Tom Holt

Written by the author of "Lucia in Wartime", "Lucia Triumphant", "Expecting Someone Taller" and "Whose Afraid of Beowulf?", this is an historical novel set in Greece. Eupolis of Pallene, playwright and satirist, offers new and wicked perspectives on the glory that was Greece.

Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens Details

Date : Published January 1st 1990 by St. Martin's Press (first published 1989)

ISBN : 9780312038380

Author : Tom Holt

Format : Hardcover 247 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Humor, Cultural, Greece, Fantasy

 [Download Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens Tom Holt

From Reader Review Goatsong: A Novel of Ancient Athens for online ebook

Beth says

I enjoyed this book more than the other Tom Holt book I read this year (Little People). It's set in ancient Greece and Pericles and Sophocles make cameo appearances. It's a fun story.

Vivencio says

all in all, a light but great read about Eupolis of Pallene, a comedy playwright in ancient greece.

Annette says

After enjoying Barking and [Book:You don't have to be evil to work here but it helps], I've been going back through Holt's bibliography to see what else I like. I wasn't actually too impressed with this one. It purports to be the autobiography of one Eupolis, a comic poet of Athens. It's not Bad, per say, but the plot is meandering and never seems to get anywhere important. Also, the timeline frequently doubles back on itself in a confusing manner. There are zillions of Greek names, which is logical enough given the setting but they get hard to remember. What with the constant flashbacks and foreshadowing, it often seemed that characters were resurrected - "wait, didn't that Criticus dude die back in the third chapter? What's he doing with lines in this one?" None of the characters were particularly compelling, either, and I lost what sympathy I had for the narrator and his unfortunate choice of mates when I saw how he treated her. While there certainly was some humor and a few acerbic comments on democracy and politics, all in all it wasn't worth the slog. It ends before anything really serious happens, with the promise that the fall of Athens (which is what the narrator initially set out to tell) would be covered in a follow up novel - so that the bookseller could sell two short books at a drachma each instead of one longer one at a drachma and a half. Amusingly frank, but I'm not buying it: I don't plan to seek out the rest of the series.

Zoey says

A little slow at first, but once the story got going it was surprisingly good. There was lots of comedy and I found that it was fun to analyze the story. I would recommend this book for a book club. There are some good discussions to be had.

MB (What she read) says

Reread 9/16/13: Reading my textbook reminded me of this favorite book. Time to pull it out for a re-read!

It's amazing how much information, as well as humor, Holt manages to pack into this novel. If you want a

glimpse of daily life in Ancient Athens, start here. (*I always want to compare this book to Amadeus. Basically, Euopolis is to Salieri what Aristophanes is to Mozart.*)

Another happy bit of serendipity was that my Vocabulary Word of the Day email defined Tragedy as "Goat Song" in Greek. Who knew?!?

So...you've been warned: This is a tragicomedy similar to Amadeus. Holt fans may find it is more of a slog (as are all of his historicals) than Holt's later books. History buffs should enjoy it. Others may find it hard going. Your brain needs to be set to "on", I've found.

Again, please be aware, both Goatsong and The Walled Orchard, as well as his Marathon book (can't remember the title) are very different in reading experience than his usual satirical fantasy oeuvre. I think you should know this about them going in. These are much less lighthearted. However, they are very darkly humorous.

Cover Art: This is an instance where the cover art perfectly complements the inside. See that satyr there? Love it.

Jane says

Story of ancient Greece, yes, and chock full of satire, humor, and even silliness sometimes. After having just slogged my way through a really serious book, I came to this one not knowing what to expect, but I found out: silly can be a cure for what ails you!! I loved the unpretentiousness of the novel, and the absolute candor and self-effacement of the protagonist.

In the days of Pericles and the Golden Age of Greece we meet Eupolis of Pallene [city NE of Athens] in rocky Attica. Eupolis wishes so very much to be a famous comic poet. His rival turns out to be the great comic playwright Aristophanes, and Eupolis somehow just doesn't come up to the mark. The novel is purportedly Eupolis' 'History'. But against Dexitheus the bookseller's advice Eupolis doesn't write it in formal fashion; he uses his own style, so it's more of an autobiography. He plows right into his story. We feel like we're listening his ramblings: sincere, earnest, following his own strange logic, with whimsical digressions, leading back to the main story. The novel is full of humor [the chuckling, smiling kind, not the belly laugh kind]. It skewers politics, politicians, war, peace, and naturally, the theater. We meet Eupolis' shrewish wife, Phaedra; Eupolis is certainly no Petruchio, although Phaedra is his Kate! Eupolis in his 'History' spears the well-known figures of his day: Pericles and Cleon the statesmen, Alcibiades the war hero, Aristophanes the playwright, Athens/Sparta animosity [the Spartans invade and burn Athenian villages, fields, and vineyards every summer like [water] clockwork]. Eupolis completes his Magnum Opus, "The General" but the play is a pale shadow of any of Aristophanes' plays. Poor Eupolis is an also-ran. Even the Chorus costumed as triremes cannot save his play.

Someone else mentioned here in another review a good analogy--Salieri to Mozart. The whole section involving "The General" is an absolute gem. Dexitheus has convinced Eupolis to divide his 'History' into two parts; I for one am eager to read Part II: The Walled Orchard.

I loved the humor and even the occasional silliness of the novel. The satire hit its targets. I was reminded somewhat of Douglas Adams' humor. I liked all the characters; I couldn't even hate the "villains." I wish Eupolis hadn't been such a milquetoast with Phaedra, though.

Highly recommended for lovers of satire and humor. Ancient Greece is an added bonus.

Tyson says

I didn't care for this book nearly as much as I do for the other Tom Holt novels. it takes place in ancient Greece without bringing the puns and satire Holt normally has in abundance.
