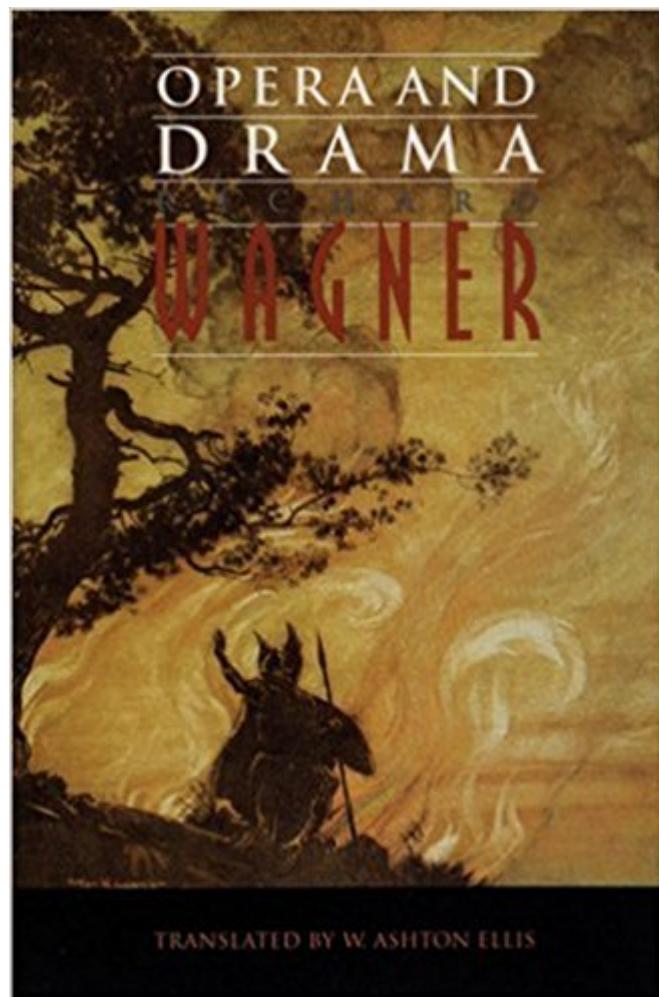


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# Opera And Drama



## Synopsis

With Richard Wagner, opera reached the apex of German Romanticism. Originally published in 1851, when Wagner was in political exile, *Opera and Drama* outlines a new, revolutionary type of musical stage work, which would finally materialize as *The Ring of the Nibelung*. Wagner's music drama, as he called it, aimed at a union of poetry, drama, music, and stagecraft. In a rare book-length study, the composer discusses the enhancement of dramas by operatic treatment and the subjects that make the best dramas. The expected Wagnerian voltage is here: in his thinking about myths such as *Oedipus*, his theories about operatic goals and musical possibilities, his contempt for musical politics, his exaltation of feeling and fantasy, his reflections about genius, and his recasting of Schopenhauer. This edition includes the full text of volume 2 of William Ashton Ellis's 1893 translation commissioned by the London Wagner Society.

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## Customer Reviews

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In general the translation is what we call more attention and faithful. Pages, printed material lacking. Good material at all.

This book is Wagner's seminal essay where he fully explains his principles and opinions regarding opera and music. If you like his operas, this is the one book that is a must have on your reading shelf. In 1893, the London Wagner Society published an English translation of Wagner's 8 volume collected works. This is volume 2 of that series. It contains the full text of "Oper und Drama", translated as "Opera and Drama". Our old friend, William Ashton Ellis, did the stilted but essential English translations. Much of what Wagner wrote has nothing to do with music, and quite a large portion is pretty forgettable. However, this book is important, and goes a long way toward helping you understand his music.

Well, to sum it up I simply have to say: Wagner wrote it, so you should read it

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