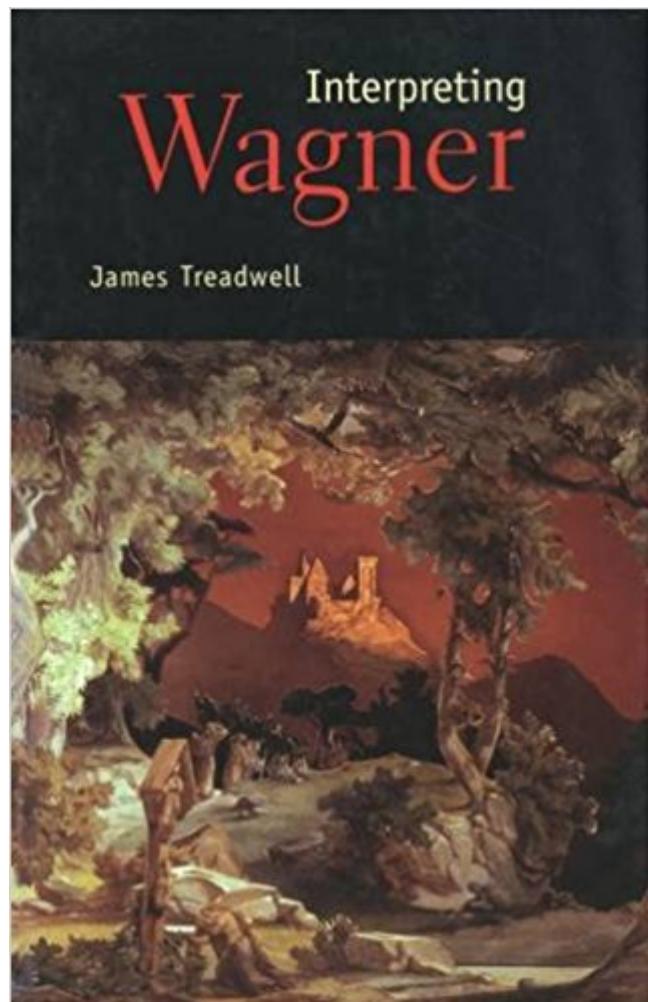


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# Interpreting Wagner



## Synopsis

In this fresh and inventive book, James Treadwell lays open the rich possibilites for interpretation offered across the full range of Wagnerâ™s art. Focusing on Wagnerâ™s music, dramas, and prose writings, rather than on questions of biography or influence, the book carefully traces the tensions and uncertainties embedded within the composerâ™s central themes. Treadwell identifies and pursues the habitual concerns of Wagnerâ™s operas and writings: enchantment, seduction, heroism, victory, transcendence, and sacredness. While Wagnerâ™s work repeatedly and urgently sets itself to deny various or ambiguous interpretations, the operas themselves are nevertheless far more intricate and conflicted than this denial allows for. In this altered light, the dimensions of Wagnerâ™s art are unexpectedly extended, and its enduring vitality is refreshingly reasserted.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 1st edition (May 11, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300098154

ISBN-13: 978-0300098150

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,357,792 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Wagner #2499 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera #4519 in Books > History > Europe > Germany

## Customer Reviews

James Treadwell was lecturer and junior research fellow at the University of Oxford, and assistant professor of English at McGill University.

First off, Treadwell is sole author, not editor of this readable and fascinating study of what's happening within Wagner's operas and his writings about them. As one of the many thousands of persons hooked on "The Ring" operas and puzzled by their peculiar power, I wanted to find a study of this which did not require specialized musical training, and was written without jargon. Treadwell does a fine job of discerning themes he calls: romance, revolution, exile and religion. I recommend

the book for its thoughtful examination of this topic, at a very different level than a book written for musicologists and also very different than internet chat discussions of "Why does Kundry die at the end?"

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