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The Divine Comedy (Hardback)

By Dante Alighieri

WW Norton Co, United States, 2013. Hardback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 239 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Divine Comedy is the precursor of modern literature, and this translation-decades in the making-gives us the entire epic as a single, coherent and compulsively readable lyric poem. Written in the early fourteenth century and completed in 1321, the year of Dante's death, The Divine Comedy is perhaps the greatest work of epic poetry ever composed. Divided into three books-Hell, Purgatory and Heaven-the poem's allegorical vision of the afterlife portrays the poet's spiritual crisis in terms of his own contemporary history, in a text of such vivid life and variety that modern readers will find themselves astounded in a hundred different ways. And indeed the structure of this massive single song is divided into a hundred songs, or cantos, each of which is a separate poetic miracle. But unifying them all is the impetus of the Italian verse: a verbal energy that Clive James has now brought into English. In his introductory essay, James says that the twin secrets of Dante are texture and impetus. All the packed detail must be there, but the thing must...



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