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Abstract

This book by Ingo Gildenhard, Professor of Classics at King's College, University of Cambridge, is an excellent annotated edition of Book 4.1-299 of Vergil's Aeneid, the 'national' epic of the Romans and one of the greatest works of world literature. Book 4 of the Aeneid is by far the most well-known and popular among the books of the epic. It recounts the story of Aeneas' and the Trojans' stay in Carthage, as well as the love affair between the Trojan hero (and progenitor of the Roman people) and the queen of Carthage, Dido. With intelligent and engaging writing and thanks to the excellent use of bibliography, this book is an excellent study of Aeneid Book 4, which occupies a central place in

the epic poem, as it constantly refers back to what preceded in the previous books, while preparing the ground for what ensues. In the Preface, the author explains the structure and organization of the book in detail. This is followed by the Latin Text and then Study Questions for each individual section of the text. The main body of the book is a detailed Commentary, which covers in full issues of language and translation, style, literary technique, intertextuality and historical context, among other topics. The Commentary is accompanied by four Interpretive Essays (1. Content and Form, 2. Historiographical Dido, 3. Allusion, 4. Religion) that cover not only Book 4 but the entire Aeneid.

