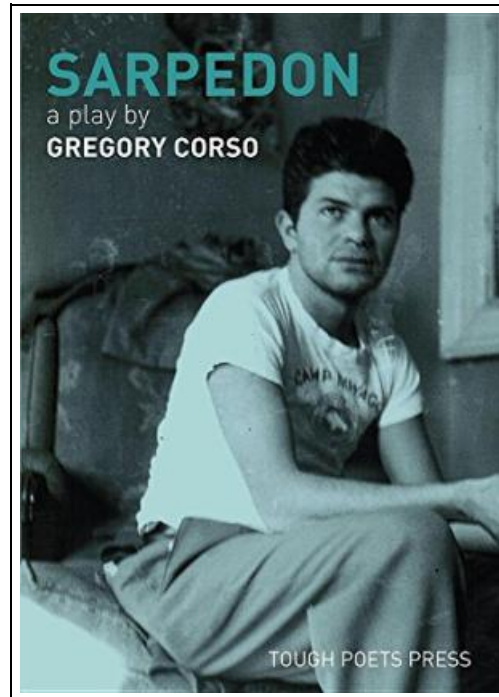


## Sarpedon: A Play by Gregory Corso (Paperback)



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Tough Poets Press, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Prior to the publication of his first collection of poetry, *The Vestal Lady on Brattle and Other Poems* (1955), Beat poet Gregory Corso wrote three plays while living as a stowaway on the campus of Harvard University. The first of these plays, written in 1954, was *Sarpedon*, which Corso described as a great funny Prometheus Unbound . all in metre and rhyme and . .an attempt to replicate Euripides, though the whole shot be an original. Like the great Greek masters, I took off where Homer left an opening (like Euripides did with the fate of Agamemnon). My opening was found in *The Iliad*. Sarpedon, son of Zeus and Europa, died on the fields of Troy, and Homer had him sent up to Olympus with no complaint from Hades, who got all the others what died there. Thus I have Hades complain, demanding from his brother Zeus, the dead, all the dead, from said fields. The play comprises 17 pages of this volume. It is supplemented with a two-page introduction by Corso himself, taken from a transcript of his prefatory remarks at his 1978 reading of *Sarpedon* at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Also included are an editor s introduction which provides information about the plays Corso wrote while at Harvard and describes the circumstances surrounding his brief residence in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The volume is footnoted as well. Corso never professed to be a Greek scholar but this brilliant yet little-known work clearly demonstrates the depth of his mastery of classical literature, no doubt picked up from auditing Harvard lectures as well as from the extensive reading he did in the Clinton State Prison library in Dannemora, New York, while serving a...



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