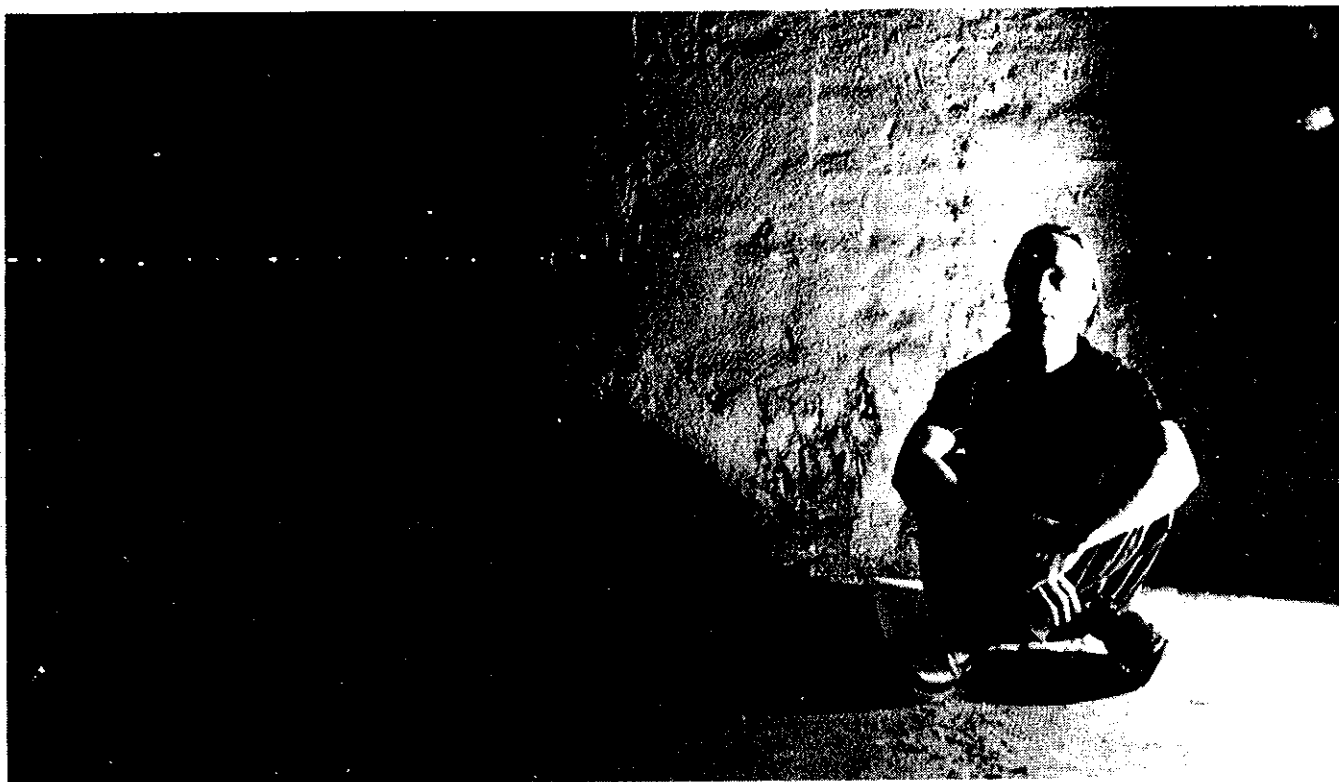




'She has just disappeared. I couldn't hold on to her.'

The *Iliad* in doggerel

Carola Scupham

Each book of the *Iliad* is traditionally referred to by a Greek capital letter.

Bk

1 Achilles insulted - Ah, Thetis's woe!
 2 The mighty Battalions are ready to go.
 3 The Gallant Greek's foe then escapes by a ruse,
 4 And Dirty old Pandarus ruins the truce.
 5 The Exploits of Diomedes give the gods quite a fright,
 6 But Andromache's Zeal cannot stop Hector's fight,
 7 Though he's Equal with Aias. The wall, built next day,
 8 Is THreatened by Trojans - and will it give way?
 9 Achilles is Interviewed, but won't be their friend!
 10 The Killing by night brings King Rhesus his end.
 11 Then each Leader, first Lucky, retires from the fray.
 12 The wall now is Mounted; the great gate gives way -
 13 No help Now for Greeks, though Poseidon tries hard,
 14 Till the X-film gets Zeus off the scene - no holds barred!
 15 How Outraged is Zeus when he wakes! Hector fires
 16 The ship - then Patroclus fights back - but expires!
 17 What a Rumpus! They finally Rescue his bod -
 18 Such Sorrow for Achilles - But his Shield's made by god;
 19 It's Time to make friends, and his passion runs high.
 20 Right Up to the walls now his enemies fly,
 21 And the Fury of Xanthus he strives to defy.
 22 The CHiefs at last meet. Alas, Hector must die.
 23 A PSychic appearance: the funeral games:
 24 For Old Priam, Achilles at last yields his claims.
 O Trojans! Mourn Hector, and all famous names.

Alpha
 Beta
 Gamma
 Delta
 Epsilon
 Zeta
 Eta
 Theta
 Iota
 Kappa
 Lamda
 Mu
 Nu
 Xi
 Omicron
 Pi
 Rho
 Sigma
 Tau
 Upsilon
 Phi
 Chi
 Psi
 Omega

This is as it were a mnemonic in reVERSE, since it is a lot harder to remember than either the Greek alphabet, or the story of the Iliad! Can you do better?