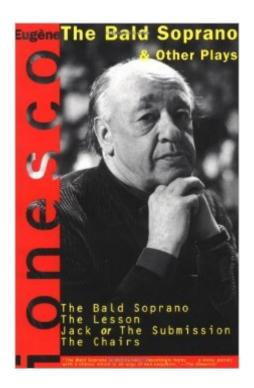
The book was found

The Bald Soprano And Other Plays: The Bald Soprano; The Lesson; Jack, Or The Submission; The Chairs





Synopsis

The leading figure of absurdist theater and one of the great innovators of the modern stage, EugÃ"ne lonesco (1909-94) did not write his first play, The Bald Soprano, until 1950. He went on to become an internationally renowned master of modern drama, famous for the comic proportions and bizarre effects that allow his work to be simultaneously hilarious, tragic, and profound. As lonesco has said, "Theater is not literature. . . . It is simply what cannot be expressed by any other means.â •

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Grove Press (1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802130798

ISBN-13: 978-0802130792

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #114,857 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #244 in Books > Literature &

Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > European

Customer Reviews

I am directing the Bald Soprano soon. One of my major battles has been this: How do I translate lonesco's ideas to my audience. Ionesco did not write his seemingly meaningless text to be a funny piece of sensless fluff. Ionesco saw in his work a profound meaning with deep implications. He shows us six people, whose interactions with each other are completely absurd and meaningless. The characters speak to each other in endless non-sequinters and cliches. They cannot communicate with one another. Their inablity to communicate unltimatally leads to conflict and the end, not only of the play, but of the lives of these characters (made alive only as long as the play lasts) the audience laughs at this. They look at these characters on the stage and think, "What aweful people they are." What they don't realize is that they are laughing at themselves. It is infact they who scurry about the earth speaking to one another with meaningless words, and in cliches. They are trapped in a world of political correctness, and useless sayings. They don't communicate, but say only what they are expected to say. They fight about things that have no eternal significance, and they fight until it is impossible for either side to win. The Bald Soprano shows us

ourselves. The tragedy of the Bald Soprano is that we laugh at it, because we except that our relationships and indeed our existance is laughable. The tragedy is that we don't even know that we are laughing at ourselves, because we are blind to our own faults. WE don't allow ourselves to see that we are talking without speaking, and fighting without winning. The difficulty to the director is: How do we make the audience see Ionesco's point.

These four one-act plays of bleak absurdity and startling originality place lonesco alongside Beckett and Pinter as one of twentieth century theater's most enigmatic iconoclasts."The Bald Soprano" begins as a seemingly placid comedy on proper English manners, but then weird things happen -irregular clock chimes, contradictions with no logical basis, non-sequiturs -- which build to a crescendo of chaos like a dissonant string quartet. Corrupting every convention of traditional drama, defying every expectation of the audience, it is exactly the "anti-play" its subtitle suggests. In "The Lesson," an aging professor's excessive zeal for a particular subject, made incomprehensibly esoteric by his own obsessive study of it, is the downfall of many a hapless student." Jack" is the age-old story of a boy who disappoints his family by not wanting to marry the girl they have selected for him, but, like a surrealist painting, the proceedings are rendered grotesque by nonsensical lines and colors. As though to accentuate the banality of the underlying plot, the actors go to dramatic extremes as if they were acting out a "real" drama. But I feel that the most engaging of the four plays is "The Chairs," in which two actors not only must play a nonagenarian couple hosting a roomful of people who have assembled for a lecture, but must pantomime the presence of the (invisible) guests. The bitterly ironic (and very funny) "lecture" given at the end affirms MacBeth's notion that life truly is a tale told by an idiot. I think these plays are more about form than content, as lonesco is experimenting with visual and verbal imagery and challenging the audience's sense of comfort with the theater, intending to evoke unusual and unpleasant emotions like awkwardness or embarrassment.

Download to continue reading...

The Bald Soprano and Other Plays: The Bald Soprano; The Lesson; Jack, or the Submission; The Chairs ESL Lesson Plans: An ESL Teacher's Essential Guide to Lesson Planning, Including Samples and Ideas ~ (English As a Second Language Lesson Plans) Jack and Joe: Hunt For Jack Reacher Series (The Hunt for Jack Reacher Series Book 6) Detective Jack Stratton Mystery Thriller Series: JACK KNIFED (Detective Jack Stratton Mystery-Thriller Series Book 2) Deep Cover Jack: Hunt For Jack Reacher Series (The Hunt For Jack Reacher Series Book 7) Broken Submission: Sweet Submission (Contemporary Submissive Romance) Finding Submission (Service &

Submission Book 1) EROTICA:SUBMISSIVE TRAINING FEMALE DOMINATION & HUMILIATION SEX SHORT STORIES: Tease Cage & Denial (Male Pov Chastity Submission Bundle): New Adult (Erotic ... Bdsm Submission Asian Body Book 1) TOM CLANCY COMPLETE SERIES READING ORDER: Jack Ryan, John Clark, Jack Ryan Jr./Campus, Op-Center, Ghost Recon, EndWar, Splinter Cell, Net Force, Power Plays, and more! Bellini - Opera Scenes and Arias for Soprano and Orchestra: Music Minus One Soprano Bellini: Gioite amiche contrade (Aria di Cerere) (Recitative and Aria for Soprano) (Score for Voice and Piano) (Vincenzo Bellini: Inediti per Soprano, B.S. 1016) Quando Incise Su Quel Marmo (When Engraved on the Marble) for Soprano and Orchestra; Soprano with Piano Reduction [Sheet Music] (B. S., 1013) Bellini - La Sonnambula: Soprano Scenes & Arias with Orchestra: Music Minus One Soprano (Music Minus One (Numbered)) Oratorio Arias for Soprano: Music Minus One Soprano Detective Jack Stratton Mystery Thriller Series: JACK AND THE GIANT KILLER GIRL JACKED: Detective Jack Stratton Mystery Series (Detective Jack Stratton Mystery Thriller Series Book 1) Quick Be Jack: A Jack Nolan Novel (The Cap's Place Series Book 3) LEE CHILD: SERIES READING ORDER: MY READING CHECKLIST: JACK REACHER SERIES, JACK REACHER SHORT STORIES, HAROLD MIDDLETON SERIES, SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS BY LEE CHILD, LEE CHILD ANTHOLOGIES With A Twist - A Lt. Jack Daniels Locked Room Mystery Short Story (Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels Mysteries) Debt Collector - Vengeance (Book 2 of a Jack Winchester Organized Crime Action Thriller) (Jack Winchester Vigilante Justice Thriller Series)

<u>Dmca</u>