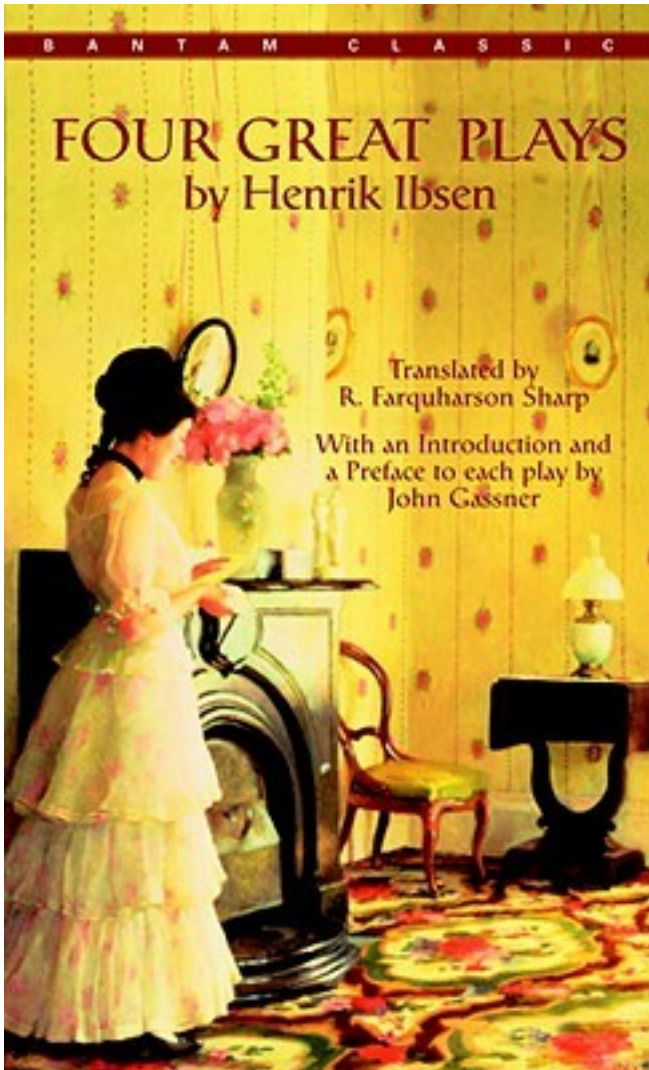

Henrik Ibsen

Four Great Plays



Title: Four Great Plays

Author: Henrik Ibsen

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 320

Publisher: Turtleback Books, 449654400

ISBN: 0808510363

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.9 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Here, in a single volume, are four major plays by the first modern playwright, Henrik Ibsen. "Ghosts" -the startling portrayal of a family destroyed by disease and infidelity. "The Wild Duck" -- A poignant drama of lost illusions. "An Enemy Of The People" -- Ibsen's vigorous attack on public opinion. And "A Doll's House" -- the play that scandalized the Victorian world with its unsparing views of love and marriage, featuring one of the most controversial heroines -- and one of the most famous exists -- in the literature of the stage.

Insightful reviews

Carah Naseem: Review of A Doll's House: The first two acts of this are so Victorian that it's absurd. Ending kicked ass though. Nora and Ayn Rand would have been cold lesbian lovers.

Phillip: I did not think I was going to like Ibsen. Before reading this collection I had seen A Doll's House and I found the ending really problematic, and that experience colored my expectations for Ibsen. But I was really pleased with Ghosts and An Enemy of the People, which I think are excellent plays.

I still have a problem with the end of A Doll's House, mostly because I feel like Nora critiques Torvald for things she has encouraged him to do throughout the play (e.g., she refers to herself using his animal rhetoric), so it seems to me like she has encouraged him to treat her a certain way and then suddenly is mad at him for having treated her that way. Now I understand that he was probably inclined to treat her like a child/pet before, but her behavior seems like it encouraged him. Reading the play I found her condemnation a bit more convincing because I read with the emphasis on his refusal to take the blame for her illegal actions, although this is also a somewhat problematic critique on her part, based more on romance novels than a real practical set of expectations.

But I really enjoyed Ghosts and An Enemy of the People. If I were going to teach one of these plays I would definitely choose Ghosts, which was my favorite. I feel Mrs. Alving is a more coherent and reliable lead character than Nora, and I find the social critique more devastating and less problematic.

Felix Purat: Very good playwright! Though frankly I ought to go see them performed. Best reviewed play by play:

The Doll's Room – ahead of its time, though even today it begs the question of whether leaving behind one's children is worth it. Excellently captures one of those moments that, like an unexpected suicide, just happens as if naturally and there's nothing one can do about it.

Ghosts – my personal favourite. Flowing with all kinds of emotion and dubious decisions, Ibsen had a helluva mind to come up with a play like this.

Enemy of the People – seemingly on the ordinary side with Ibsen, but not when it comes to

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