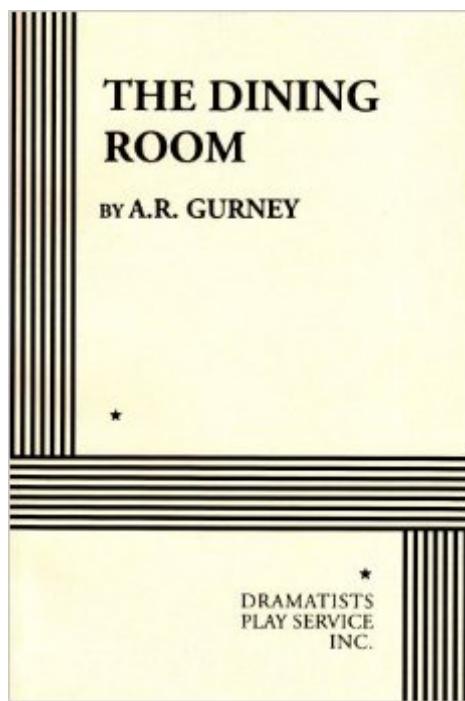


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The Dining Room.



Synopsis

Three men and three women portray a wide, diverse range of characters - from little boys to grandfathers, from giggling girls to housemaids - in this brilliantly structured play. The action takes place in an upper middle-class American dining-room, the hub of social family life, comprising a mosaic of interrelated scenes, sometimes funny, sometimes touching, sometimes rueful, which together create a profound study of the decaying mores of the American WASP. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dining rooms are generally seen as the meeting place of a family. The place where a family can sit down and really talk about how each other's busy lives are going. The place where people that are close can come together and share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. But the dining room in the play with the same name is a different kind of dining room. This dining room is, in fact, not just one dining room but many of them. The setting in this play is one of different dining rooms in different homes with different people and different situations. It allows the audience to take a small peek into the lives of many individuals that, at one level or another, they can relate to. I have really never read anything like this play before. One of the many interesting aspects about this play is that there are about 60 parts but it is suggested to only use six actors. These six actors would rotate roles and, instead of using different costumes, would change their mannerisms and speech for each character. What an intriguing idea to use for a play. It makes the play almost like a comedy show with different sketches but a constant setting. As a playwright myself, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this play. It

gave me a new sense of playwriting. I looked at Gurney's wonderful use of characterization and how he was able to portray all kinds of different people without the use of costuming. That is something that is very difficult to do. For example, in one scene he has an architect and a buyer look at the dining room. Buyer: This room has such resonance. Architect: So does a church but that doesn't mean we have to live in it. And then in a scene later in the play he has two prep-school girls getting ready for a small party. Sarah: Here. Gin and vodka and Fresca. The boys are bringing the pot.

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