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Five Plays



Synopsis

Samuel D. Hunter's plays are populated with characters from the bleak side of the American economy. Laced with poetic images yet drawn with meticulous realism, Hunter's plays linger in franchise restaurants, retirement facilities, mountain camps and struggling businesses. The five plays collected here, all set in Hunter's home state of Idaho, demonstrate this writer's knack for exposing, without condescension or easy moralizing, the pathos in marginalized lives.

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Customer Reviews

> Skillful and moving, *Pocatello* is another of Hunter's explorations of community and isolation in Idaho, humanely rendered and shrewdly structured. Hunter's writing achieves a new level of technical complexity from the opening scene. • David Cote, *Time Out New York*> *The Few* is a compassionate, gently hued drama about lonely lives. Mr. Hunter writes with unusual insight into, and empathy for, people whose lives have settled into sad stasis, or strategic withdrawal. • Charles Isherwood, *New York Times*> *A Great Wilderness* is an affecting drama that strengthens its hold on you bit by unpredictable bit> The playwright's wide-angle view of humanity is evident again, as is his willingness to upend our expectations. • Don Aucoin, *Boston Globe*> Hunter is a welcome theatrical voice from the American West. In *Rest*, Hunter mixes quirkiness with poignancy in a drama that elicits steady laughter by juxtaposing stark facts of mortality with existentialist aches and neurotic pains. Hunter has a gift for capturing the fine-grained textures of daily interaction. • Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*> *A Permanent Image* totters at the edge of realism, a fusion of Midwest Gothic, with

clattering notes of absurdism. Hunter is adept at coming up with striking images. Youâ™ll be sustained not just by the question of where this play is going, but also by the empathy youâ™ll find yourself feeling for the characters.â • —Chris Jones, Chicago TribuneâœSkillful and moving, Pocatello is another of Hunterâ™s explorations of community and isolation in Idaho, humanely rendered and shrewdly structured. Hunterâ™s writing achieves a new level of technical complexity from the opening scene.â • â •David Cote, Time Out New YorkâœThe Few is a compassionate, gently hued drama about lonely lives. Mr. Hunter writes with unusual insight into, and empathy for, people whose lives have settled into sad stasis, or strategic withdrawal.â • â •Charles Isherwood, New York TimesâœA Great Wilderness is an affecting drama that strengthens its hold on you bit by unpredictable bitâœThe playwrightâ™s wide-angle view of humanity is evident again, as is his willingness to upend our expectations.â • â •Don Aucoin, Boston GlobeâœHunter is a welcome theatrical voice from the American West. In Rest, Hunter mixes quirkiness with poignancy in a drama that elicits steady laughter by juxtaposing stark facts of mortality with existentialist aches and neurotic pains. Hunter has a gift for capturing the fine-grained textures of daily interaction.â • â •Charles McNulty, Los Angeles TimesâœA Permanent Image totters at the edge of realism, a fusion of Midwest Gothic, with clattering notes of absurdism. Hunter is adept at coming up with striking images. Youâ™ll be sustained not just by the question of where this play is going, but also by the empathy youâ™ll find yourself feeling for the characters.â • â •Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

Samuel D. Hunterâ™s other plays include The Whale, A Bright New Boise, The Healing and The Harvest. He is the recipient of a MacArthur “Geniusâ • Fellowship, a Whiting Writers Award, an Obie Award and a Drama Desk Award. He holds degrees in playwriting from NYU, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and Juilliard. He holds an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Idaho.

Bernard Shaw was one of the greatest writers of plays who ever lived. This is a nice edition if you want a brief overview of his work. There are other works out there with his complete works which I believe would be better. Franklin Library (as well as Easton) make great books that look great on the shelf. A very good edition and if you can get it at a good buy, go for it. RMW

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