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# Cloud 9



## Synopsis

Sharp comedy and a serious purpose are splendidly combined in *Cloud 9*, Caryl Churchill's provocative and amusing study of sexual politics. It unlocks the imagination, liberates the mind, and leaves you weak with laughter. Time Out: Audacious and savagely funny. Mesmerizing. Washington Post: *Cloud 9* is about relationships - between women and men, men and men, women and women. It is about sex, work, mothers, Africa, power, children, grandmothers, politics, money, Queen Victoria and Sex. *Cloud 9* premiered in London at the Royal Court Theatre in 1979, then was revived for a two-year run in New York City (1981). It has since been staged all over the world. Caryl Churchill has written for the stage, television and radio. A renowned and prolific playwright, her plays include *Cloud Nine*, *Top Girls*, *Far Away*, *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?*, *Bliss*, *Love and Information*, *Mad Forest* and *A Number*. In 2002, she received the Obie Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2010, she was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Reading the script for Caryl Churchill's 1979 play about sex and love is a special workout for the imagination. First, she asks you to imagine characters whose sexual identities and alliances shift constantly. Then she asks you to imagine that most of the characters make an impossible leap in time, from colonial Africa in the Victorian age to contemporary Britain. Lastly, she asks you to imagine some of the male characters played by women and some female characters played by

men. Churchill likes to get things good and mixed up so all the audience's preconceptions about gender, romance, and "lifestyle" are scrambled, neutralized, and possibly even rebuilt. The title refers to the state of orgasmic and emotional bliss that everyone in this play seems to be striving for so desperately.

FIVE STARS: "A feat of impure, alloyed pleasure." The Sunday Telegraph "An absolute treat...wholly heavenly" The Daily Telegraph "Sharp comedy and a serious purpose are splendidly combined in CLOUD NINE, Caryl Churchill's provocative and amusing study of sexual politics" It unlocks the imagination, liberates the mind, and leaves you weak with laughter Time Out "There is no other play quite like Cloud 9." Mel Gussow, New York Times "An innovative comedy: it is consistently engrossing and often emotionally moving." Leah D Frank, New York Times "Intelligent, inventive and funny." - New York Times "I really don't know when I've had more fun. It blends farce, pathos into a work of total theatre." - New York Daily News

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Some playwrights can be appreciated on the page; I'm not sure Churchill is one of them. This is one of her better-known plays, a time-jumping look at race, class, and sexuality across a century. I found the first half, set in Victorian Africa, far more compelling than the second part; in the latter, it was not clear to me why some of the actors from the first part were assigned their particular counterparts, and many of the interactions seemed whiny. Again, perhaps it works better on the stage, as intended.

great book - lives up to the rating

Wow there is so much to say about this book! where do I even start!?first of all I can say that it's pretty great. just look at the cover. Need I say more? I can but I won't. You'll just have to read it. ;)Just kidding cause I kissed it!

This play is cool but confusing. Very abstract. I would recommend it to people who like abstract things. So yea

Churchill's "Cloud 9" is a crazy insane roller-coaster of gender-flips, shifting characters, crude sex, and anachronisms. Challenging notions of feminine sexuality, this play is definitely both one of the most insightful and strangest texts I've read in a while.

Required for my daughter's acting course. Ordered because the price was cheaper than the college bookstore.

great

I only got it for my English class, I wasn't really interested in it. It is a very weird play.

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