

Unveil the Delicate Dance of Power and Identity in "The Niceties"

Step into the captivating world of "The Niceties," a modern play by award-winning playwright Eleanor Burgess, and witness a poignant and thought-provoking examination of the intricate interplay between race, power, and privilege.



The Niceties (Oberon Modern Plays) by Kyra Kaptzan Robinov

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3184 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 106 pages
Paperback	: 342 pages
Item Weight	: 2.16 pounds
Dimensions	: 8.5 x 0.78 x 11 inches



Synopsis

Set in 2016, "The Niceties" follows the encounter between Zoe Washington, a promising Black undergraduate student at an elite university, and Janine Boisvert, her white professor, who specializes in African-American literature. As Zoe seeks guidance for her thesis on a prominent Black playwright, the two women engage in a seemingly amiable conversation that gradually unravels into a tense and revealing exploration of their contrasting perspectives on race and identity.

Themes and Motifs

- **Power Dynamics:** "The Niceties" exposes the subtle yet pervasive power imbalances that exist between individuals from different backgrounds, challenging assumptions about equality and privilege.
- **Race and Identity:** The play delves into the complexities of racial identity, exploring how perceived differences can shape interactions and perceptions.
- **Intersectionalism:** Burgess weaves together discussions of race, class, and gender, reminding us of the interconnected nature of social identities and the challenges faced by marginalized communities.
- **Microaggressions:** The play showcases the insidious nature of microaggressions, those subtle yet harmful actions and phrases that can undermine a person's sense of self and belonging.
- **Privilege and Blind Spots:** "The Niceties" forces characters and audience members alike to confront their own blind spots and acknowledge the ways in which privilege can distort perceptions and perpetuate injustice.

Characters and Relationships

- **Zoe Washington:** A brilliant and assertive African-American student determined to explore the complexities of her racial identity and challenge the status quo.
- **Janine Boisvert:** A white professor who believes herself to be an ally but struggles to fully understand or address the systemic racism her student faces.

- **Eric Miller:** A Black teaching assistant who serves as a mentor for Zoe and challenges Janine's assumptions about race and power.

Critical Acclaim and Awards

"The Nicesities" has garnered widespread critical acclaim and numerous awards, including:

* 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Drama Finalist * 2018 Obie Award for Best New American Play * 2019 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play

Why Read "The Nicesities"?

"The Nicesities" is an essential read for anyone seeking a profound and thought-provoking exploration of the complexities of race, power, and identity. It offers a nuanced and unflinching examination of the challenges and opportunities that arise when people from different backgrounds come together.

By immersing yourself in the world of "The Nicesities," you will:

* Gain a deeper understanding of systemic racism and its impact on individuals. * Challenge your own assumptions about race and privilege. * Reflect on the importance of open and honest dialogue in fostering understanding and change. * Appreciate the artistry of a thought-provoking and insightful modern play.

"The Nicesities" is a captivating and unforgettable play that will leave you pondering its themes and messages long after you finish reading it. It is a must-read for anyone passionate about theatre, social justice, or the human experience. Free Download your copy today and embark on a

literary journey that will challenge your perspectives and inspire you to pursue a more just and equitable world.



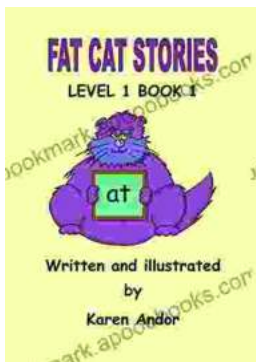
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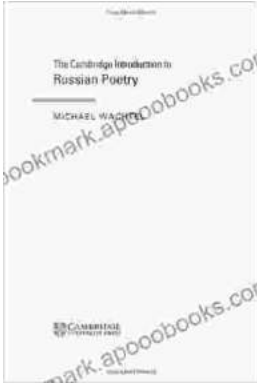
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