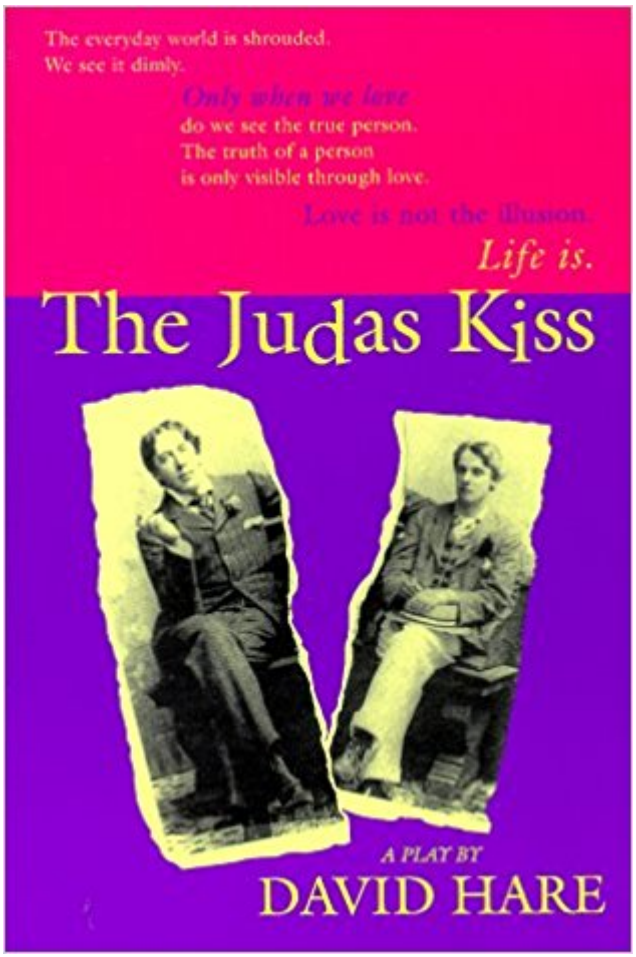
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The Judas Kiss



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Synopsis

Portraying the two critical moments in Oscar WildeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s late life –– when he decides to stay in England and face imprisonment and the night after his release, two years later –– David HareÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Judas Kiss presents the consequences of taking an uncompromisingly moral position in a world defined by fear, expedience, and conformity.

Book Information

Paperback: 115 pages

Publisher: Grove Press; 1st American Ed edition (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802135722

ISBN-13: 978-0802135728

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 5.5 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #683,333 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 inÃ Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Drama > Gay #1318 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Dramas & Plays #1825 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > European

Customer Reviews

David Butler shows his skills as a writer in a quick-paced, action packed, with the story alternating tales from several of the key characters. Overall it makes you question your beliefs about sexual preferences, street kids, schools and the justice system. The hero of the story is a hidden character; all the rest are believably human.

Because I am very impressed by most of David Hare’s plays I guess I thought this one was not up to snuff, oddly a kind of writing exercise that could be used very well by college students looking for short scenes to direct/act. Don’t let this make you shy away from his other works!

Saw the play and I wanted to know why it wasn’t a favorite of theirs. The Oscar Wilde portrayal is rather out ofcontrol. Egotism flourishes beyond even understanding readers’ tolerance.

I don’t know why all the other reviews for the Judas Kiss here, mention Oscar Wilde. This book is

nothing to do with Oscar Wilde, it is a noir, underground, swarthy novel about a number of unsavoury characters, set in Dublin.Each chapter is told from the POV of a different character, and Butler’s strength is giving each of these characters completely different voices. We have Bluebottle, the troubled "street urchin", Malcom, the dandy with an eye for young boys. Gwendeline, Malcom’s artist friend, Fergal, Malcom’s opportunistic nephew, and a Brother (monk, not sibling) from Bluebottle’s past, who, as the novel tells us in the first few lines, is the only character with any real decency.Not a book for people who like an easy read, nor is it a feel good novel. But, if you like your fiction gritty and bloody, this is a real page turner.

David Hare is an exceptional dramatist, complex and challenging. This is certainly the case with The Judas Kiss, a rather long play. I think that Hare tired to accomplish several goals with this play including giving the viewer an appreciation for the dense complexity of Wilde’s personality as well as exploring the relationship that certainly was a primary catalyst in his destruction.Oscar Wilde, as developed by Hare, was aware of the sweep of history and the power of the social structures that uphold our civilization. Thus he sees that these forces of history, classicism, nationalism, moralism, religiosity, and heterosexual centered conceptions of love relationships were dominant forces and those who oppose these forces begins to play a role, possibly a role separate from their inner self conception, and there is no escaping the role once the role has been assumed. Wilde has assumed this role and wide eyed he sees that the only choice he has is how he plays his role in this sweeping narrative.Wisely, Hare builds motives upon motives, for we are also lead to think that Wilde has been manipulated into assuming this role by his young lover, Bosie, as a juvenile attempt to seek revenge on his overbearing father. But we learn that Wilde is not easily manipulated and if he appears to have been manipulated, the truth lies deep and remains a wonderful mystery in the play.The character of Wilde is the subject of this play even though his relationships, his friendships, his marriage, his trial, his imprisonment, and his exile build the armature on which Hare explores Wilde at his most vulnerable and complex. This is a rewarding play.

I have read quite a few books about Oscar Wilde, both biographical and fictional. But, I must say that "Judas Kiss", written by a very talented David Hare, seems to be the best among the plays. The minute I started reading this book, I felt better about not having a chance to see the play on Broadway, with an incredible Liam Neeson as late Oscar Wilde. Hare’s playwriting ability is so powerful, that I was able to re-create theater stage, the story happening on it, and even Liam Neeson himself. In terms of its narrrative, "Judas Kiss" takes somewhat non-traditional look at the

last few months of Oscar Wilde's life in Italy. It is well-documented that prison changed him greatly in spirit and in body, and that he came out physically and spiritually weaker than ever. But, wait and see what Hare has to say about this as well as about Bosie's presence in Wilde's life after prison, among other things.

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