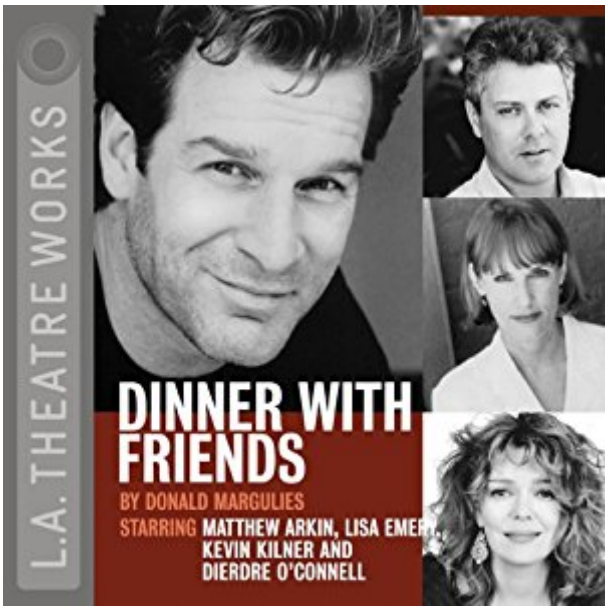
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# Dinner With Friends




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## Synopsis

Winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for drama, Dinner With Friends examines the lives of two couples and the repercussions of divorce on their friendships. With wit, compassion and consummate skill, playwright Donald Margulies weighs the cost of breaking up and of staying together. A L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Matthew Arkin, Lisa Emery, Kevin Kilner and Deirdre O'Connell. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 1 hourÃ Â andÃ Â 35 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Original recording
Publisher: L.A. Theatre Works
Audible.com Release Date: January 20, 2006
Language: English
ASIN: B000EAT1ZQ
Best Sellers Rank: #198 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama #677 inÃ Â Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Divorce #978 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Marriage & Family

## Customer Reviews

This play is about two couples in their 40s: Gabe & Karen and Tom & Beth. It won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Drama because it dealt with the dissolution of a marriage and how it effects both those getting the divorce and their closest friends.Tom has grown tired of just sharing the responsibilities of living with Beth: paying the mortgage, maintaining the house, driving the kids around, figuring out what to eat. He expresses a loneliness from her lack of touching him. Beth claims she is taken totally by surprise and is devastated when he leaves her.Gabe and Karen hear Beth's side first. Karen is furious with Tom. Gabe and Tom go way back, so Gabe talks to Tom alone in a few subsequent scenes. Tom's complaints resonant with Gabe a little, and Karen is fearful about what Beth's situation says about herself. Gabe and Karen are never in crisis, but their examination is interesting.There is a flashback to 12 years earlier when Beth and Tom met, and it is a nice history after the first act.The dialogue is good. The play could cut a few lines, but overall, it handles the subject well. If you are interested in reading other plays about divorce, I suggest Annapurna and The Retreat From Moscow.

"Dinner with Friends" by Donald Margulies is a play with some very telling lines, with four yuppy friends (two couples) having seismic marital stress at homes in Connecticut and Martha's Vineyard. They are not a very likeable bunch. They're self-absorbed and frivolous people. The two men Tom and Gabe have known each other for twenty-four years since their college days. Gabe and his wife Karen, annoying and cloying foodies, are the ones who introduced Tom and Beth.When the play starts Tom and Beth have been married for twelve years, have two children, but they are splitting up. If forced to list the characters in levels of obnoxiousness, Tom would have to come at the top of the list followed by Beth, then Karen, and ending up the pack would be Gabe. They all seem like very vain, snobbish brittle people. Gabe is a rather passive person, and his wife Karen is more of an activist, almost a control-freak as some character in the play describes her. The break-up of Beth and Tom's marriage sends shock waves under Gabe and Karen's, in a way threatening its survival. Beth is called high-strung. When she finds a new friend that she wants to marry in place of Tom, she says to Karen, "you need me to be a mess; you're invested in it. Every Karen needs a Beth." A great line. Beth goes on to say, "We can't all be like you, Karen. God knows I've tried. No matter how much I stir, my soup still sticks to the pot." I must admit that I never saw the play performed, and good actors can change your perceptions of the characters and the play enormously. Some character who come off poorly in the reading can win you over in the performance. It's a well-constructed, well-written play, but when you don't care that much for the people in it, you can't get emotionally involved. The character of tightly-bound Tom is the catalyst for the play's action, and his treatment of wife Beth seems brutal and abusive. Wild card Tom says, "rage can be an amazing aphrodisiac." The play starts off in a predictable arc because you can guess that Beth's distraction is due to trouble in her marriage, but it becomes more original and inventive as it evolves.There are some echoes of Albee in all this. Margulies wrote the more recent four-character play "Time Stands Still" which I reviewed for . It also has two couples who are on different tracks in life. I think "Time" is a better play.

loved this book! needed it for theatre class! read the whole thing in one day.

What a great play about the human condition and coupling. Another fantastic play! A very quick read and couldn't put it down.

Bought this book for a class project. Good story and fun to watch performed.

If you like to read good plays, certainly DINNER WITH FRIENDS should be on your list. This prize winner by Donald Margulies is certainly worth your consideration. If you like to see something that actually looks like a book on your bookshelf, the hardcopy is perfect. It is neat, clean, and the type is large enough to read without eyestrain.

Great writing from Donald Marguiles. Enjoyed the story, also enjoyed "Collected Stories", his other play. Next will be Sight Unseen.

Story about Crazy people kind of like a short soap opera(novela)

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