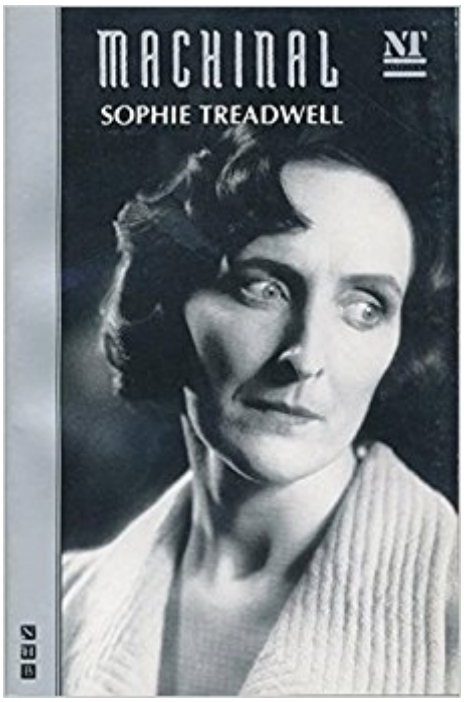
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Machinal (Royal National Theatre)



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Synopsis

A major rediscovery of a forgotten woman playwright of the twenties, Machinal is a powerful expressionist play about the status of women in an increasingly mechanized society, and the torture of a loveless marriage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sophie Treadwell was a campaigning journalist in America between the wars. Among her assignments was the sensational murder involving Ruth Snyder, who with her lover, Judd Gray, had murdered her husband and gone to the electric chair. Out of this came MACHINAL, a powerful expressionist drama about the dependent status of women and the living hell of a loveless marriage. Successfully premiered on Broadway in 1928 with Clark Gable as the lover, the play was seen in London two years later, provoked a sensation in Tairov's version in Moscow in 1933, and was then largely forgotten until revivals in New York and London in the 1990s.

Great play. Good read. Was required to read this for a college theatre class. Interesting play, somewhat dark, but well worth the read.

Bought this for my daughter. She loved it.

Disturbing, sad reality of how a person can distort one's life and others due to the unfair constraint

on women in the 1920 ’s. A feminist perspective on how male, religious and societal control on innocent women creates deadly outcomes. A fictional tale with echoes of a true story. A cautionary tale.

Heartbreaking story of a woman trapped in her own prison (her world). A must read for anyone interested in social issues.

Yes I enjoyed the book.

This book had much more writing in it that the seller listed. The writing was messy notes that took up the entire front and back pages.

It arrived just as the condition had suggested. Even though it’s used and has a slight bend in the cover, it’s still readable and the pages are nice and intact.

Having worked in the theatre, though I think more than that, being a fan of theatre and a student of literature, my take on reading plays is kind of odd. I usually dislike it. I have always felt that plays are meant to be seen and experienced. More to the point, the beauty of plays is the marriage of the playwright’s vision with that of the director’s and then watching this new product -- hey, let’s go with the metaphor - this "baby" come into its own through the actors. Of course, when I do read a good play, I get to direct in my head and it’s a totally different, yet enjoyable, experience in and of itself. I think this was a good play and I very much enjoyed reading it. This play, in particular, I found easy to read and while depressing, entertaining. It features some incredible insight to the nature and status of not only women in the 1920’s, but the whole of the human condition. The main character, Helen or YOUNG WOMAN, is such a little mouse that it’s a stretch to imagine her becoming so crazy with desperation that she’d jump from quivering wreck into an affair and then into murder. Young Woman’s inner monologues, however, are fantastic and bridge the divide between who this character really is and whom she is forced to be. As far as reading the play, I would recommend it to anyone interested in expressionism or feminism.

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