

"As You Desire Me": A Masterpiece of Psychological Insight and Theatrical Brilliance

Luigi Pirandello's "As You Desire Me" is a timeless masterpiece that has captivated audiences for decades. With its profound exploration of the human psyche and its incisive commentary on the nature of reality, this modern classic is a testament to Pirandello's genius as a playwright.

The Enigma of Serafina Della Rosa

At the heart of "As You Desire Me" lies the enigmatic Serafina Della Rosa, a woman haunted by a mysterious past. Having lost her memory during the war, she emerges from the shadows as a blank slate, ready to be molded into whatever her surroundings dictate.



As You Desire Me (Oberon Modern Plays) by Luigi Pirandello

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 736 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 73 pages



Serafina's identity becomes a subject of intense speculation and manipulation. To her former husband, Bruno Pieri, she is the missing Contessa Alessandra, a woman he had lost to the ravages of war. To her

current lover, Carlo Santoro, she is the elusive Signora Civetta, a woman of mystery and allure.

As Serafina navigates these conflicting identities, she grapples with the profound question of who she truly is. Is she the woman her husband remembers, the woman she believes herself to be, or merely a reflection of the desires and expectations of those around her?

The Power of Desire

"As You Desire Me" is a powerful meditation on the nature of desire and its transformative effects on human behavior. The characters in the play are driven by their own desires, often at the expense of others.

Bruno Pieri's desire for his lost wife blinds him to the truth about Serafina. He projects onto her the image of Alessandra, unable to accept that she may be a different woman. Carlo Santoro, consumed by his desire for Signora Civetta, ignores the warnings of those who suspect her true identity.

Through these characters, Pirandello explores the dangers of unchecked desire and the ways in which it can distort reality and lead to self-destruction.

The Fragility of Memory

Another key theme in "As You Desire Me" is the fragility of memory and the unreliability of the past. Serafina's lost memories become a metaphor for the elusive nature of truth.

As the characters try to piece together the puzzle of Serafina's past, they discover that memories are often subjective, shaped by our experiences and desires. The play challenges our assumptions about the fixed nature of history and suggests that the past is constantly being reinvented and reshaped.

Theatrical Brilliance

"As You Desire Me" is not only a psychological masterpiece but also a brilliant work of theater. Pirandello's use of dialogue is incisive and engaging, revealing the inner thoughts and motivations of his characters with remarkable clarity.

The play's structure is equally innovative, employing flashbacks, shifts in perspective, and a chorus of masked figures that comment on the action from a detached, omniscient point of view. These techniques create a sense of suspense and ambiguity, drawing the audience into the characters' psychological struggles.

Luigi Pirandello's "As You Desire Me" is a profoundly moving and thought-provoking play that continues to resonate with audiences today. Through its exploration of identity, memory, and desire, it offers a timeless meditation on the human condition.

This modern classic is a testament to Pirandello's mastery of the stage and his ability to create characters and situations that delve into the darkest recesses of the human psyche. "As You Desire Me" is a must-read for anyone interested in modern drama, psychology, or the enduring power of storytelling.



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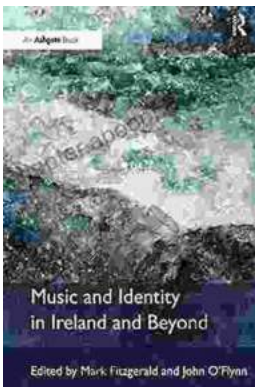
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