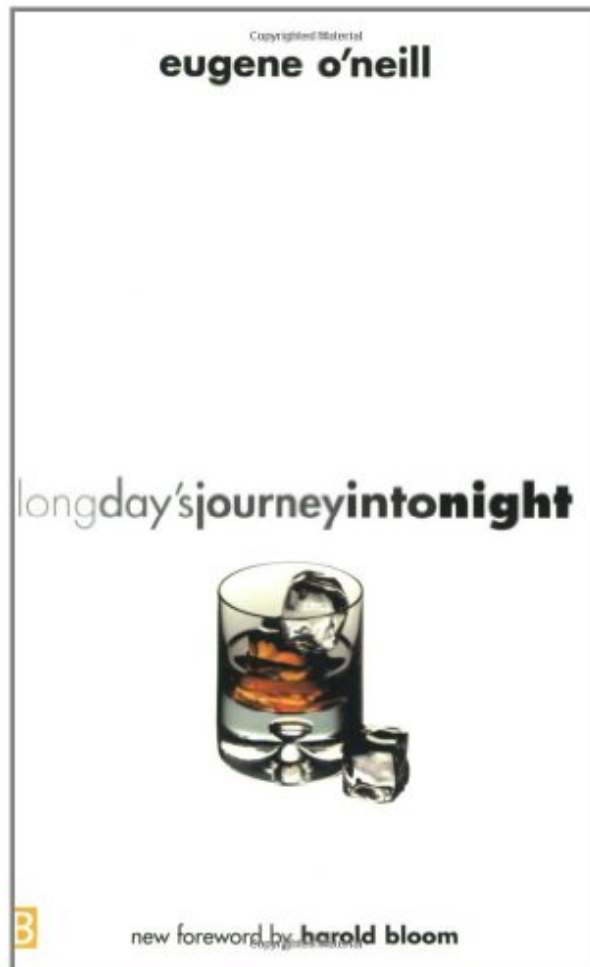


LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT BY EUGENE O'NEILL



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long day's **journey into night**



new foreword by **harold bloom**

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From the Back Cover

"By common consent, Long Day's Journey into Night is Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece. . . . The helplessness of family love to sustain, let alone heal, the wounds of marriage, of parenthood, and of sonship, have never been so remorselessly and so pathetically portrayed, and with a force of gesture too painful ever to be forgotten by any of us."—Harold Bloom, from the foreword "Only an artist of O'Neill's extraordinary skill and perception can draw the curtain on the secrets of his own family to make you peer into your own. Long Day's Journey into Night is the most remarkable achievement of one of the world's greatest dramatists."—Jose Quintero "The play is an invaluable key to its author's creative evolution. It serves as the Rosetta Stone of O'Neill's life and art."—Barbara Gelb "The definitive edition of a 'play of old sorrow, written in tears and blood,' as O'Neill described it in dedicating it to his wife, Carlotta."—Boston Globe

About the Author

Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953), the father of American drama, won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama four times and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1936. Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Humanities at Yale University and Berg Professor of English at New York University, is the author of many books, including *The Western Canon*, *The Anxiety of Influence* and, most recently, *How to Read and Why*

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LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT BY EUGENE O'NEILL

PDF

Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical play *Long Day's Journey into Night* is regarded as his finest work. First published by Yale University Press in 1956, it won the Pulitzer Prize in 1957 and has since sold more than one million copies. This edition, which includes a new foreword by Harold Bloom, coincides with a new production of the play starring Brian Dennehy, which opens in Chicago in January 2002 and in New York in April.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Night to Remember (actually an afternoon)

By Andrew H. Trotter

I bought this play after seeing the Broadway revival with Gabriel Byrne, Jessica Lange, Michael Shannon, and John Gallagher, Jr. At a Wednesday matinee. During Ms. Lange's soliloquy at the end, the fat woman sitting next to me had her cellphone ring, didn't know how to turn it off, refused my help, answered the call without meaning to, and steadfastly refused to acknowledge her apparent husband on the other end of the line, who was calling, "Ethyl? Ethyl?" over and over again. Ms. Lange did not miss a beat, but I had no idea

what she had said so I bought the play. It is a superb edition of the greatest American play ever written.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Intensity In Addiction

By Jon Linden

O'Neill's play "Long Day's Journey Into Night" is often considered his best work. The book is highly autobiographical and depicts a highly dysfunctional family where the men are all alcoholics and the mother is a morphine addict. The dialogue is truly intense and the stage direction is extremely relevant to the proper mood and attitude of the dialogue.

The most interesting thing about the play is the stigma that is attached to the use of drugs, particularly in comparison to the use of alcohol. Alcohol use and alcoholism is 'socially acceptable' whereas the use of narcotics is relegated to prostitutes and others of low social standing. The intensity of the dialogue rests in its ability to illustrate the torment of the family as it tries to deal with the drug addiction of the mother and the horror of the hold it has on her, while all the time, the alcoholism is just taken as routine. The father often comments about how he never "missed a performance" because of his alcohol use and therefore, it was not a problem. But in fact, it is a tremendous problem which they cannot shake, even though they are aware that it is consuming them.

Perhaps most interesting of all is that the play was published posthumously. O'Neill seems to have been able to write it and face the terror of the dysfunctionality in 1940, but he would not allow publication of the play until he was no longer alive. While it was within his grasp to write about the situation, it was not within him to allow the world to see it within his time.

The foreword by Harold Bloom is not surprisingly pedantic and overly academic. Bloom often takes the position that he knows what is appropriate, right and underlying about a written piece, but never assumes that any other person really properly understands what it is all about. He seems to see it as his job to inform others what they do not know; despite other people's potentially valid and illuminating interpretations. The reader may wish to completely skip the forward and go right to the words of O'Neill and make their own interpretation. Truly a marvel of a play, there is no person who would not gain from the reading of this brilliant work of the master playwright of his time.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Prisoners' Dilemma

By John Petralia

There are four of them. Father, Mother and two sons. This is just one day in their lives. Although there is no way of knowing for sure, you quickly get the impression that this day is not much different than yesterday or tomorrow. It's just another day of being a Tyrone. Trapped in their own mediocrity, the Tyrones do what most unhappy people do: Blame someone else. Mary blames her son Edmond for her addiction to morphine originally administered because of his difficult birth. Edmond and Jamie blame their career failures on their father's miserliness. Papa James sees his children as freeloaders and Mary as weak willed. Despite their angers and finger pointing, each views the family with a good deal of love and reverence. Mary says it best. "None of us can help the things life has done to us. They're done before you realize it, and once they're done they make you do other things until at last everything comes between you and what you'd like to be, and you've lost your true self forever." There you have it. Long Day's Journey into Night is a snapshot of how it is to be held prisoner in a house of mirrors. Each mirror, is flashed at you by someone to whom you are bound, someone you love, someone you hate. You can deny all you want. You can argue that mirrors distort, but there is always another mirror. You could escape. Cut the chains. But, then what? This is your family. You're stuck. Bound to them. Trapped. When you are a Tyrone, there's only one solution. Only one thing to do! You get even.

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