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August: Osage County



Synopsis

Winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play, Tracy Letts' darkly comic epic offers a painfully funny look at a family struggling in the desolate heart of America. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast recording, featuring members of the original Steppenwolf Theatre and Broadway productions: Tara Lynne Barr, Shannon Cochran, Deanna Dunagan (Tony Award® Best Leading Actress), Kimberly Guerrero, Francis Guinan, Scott Jaeck, Ron Livingston, Robert Maffia, Mariann Mayberry, Rondi Reed (Tony Award® Best Featured Actress), and David Warshofsky. Directed by Bart DeLorenzo. Recorded by L.A. Theatre Works before a live audience.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 44 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Original recording

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Best Sellers Rank: #30 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama #60 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Dysfunctional Families #156 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > United States

Customer Reviews

Debuting in 2007, Tracy Letts' AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY was an instant critical success, and many compared Letts with such Eugene O'Neill and his LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT and Edward Albee and his WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF. Letts certainly has the great sense of theatre that characterizes these writers and their plays, but in truth one might better describe him as the Jacqueline Susann of the theatrical world, with AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY something like a rural VALLEY OF THE DOLLS. Alcohol, drugs, suicide, nasty divorce, ill-advised marriage, seduction, child molestation, incest, and racism are the fabric of his tale--tossed about with considerable profanity and some of the nastiest dark humor imaginable. "She smuggled Darvocet into the psych ward in her vagina," daughter Barbara says acidly of her drug-addicted mother Violet. "There's your Greatest Generation for you. She made this speech to us while she was clenching a bottle of pills in her cooch, for God's sake."The play opens as Beverly Weston, a noted poet, retired

professor, and practicing alcoholic interviews Johnna for the position of housekeeper, cook, and his wife Violet's keeper. Beverly is drunk, but not so drunk that he cannot give a mean lecture on the tendencies of Hart Crane, John Berryman, and T.S. Eliot in a stream of remarks that eventually become the intellectual key of the play--for Eliot, he has made a disastrous marriage and like Crane and Berryman he is preparing to commit suicide.

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