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SIMPSON COCHRAN

A Slice of Saturday Night Faber & Faber

This is a bright comedy by the famous English comic playwright about the extraordinary powers of Ernie Fraser, a dreamer with a difference. Ernie has a vivid imagination; and his thoughts have the disconcerting habit of turning into reality....

Twelve Ophelias (a Play with Broken Songs) A&C Black

Cast: Mixed -- 2 men, 3 women -- Length: 2 Acts.

Relatively Speaking A&C Black

The play opens in the flat of Greg and Ginny, a young co-habiting couple, Ginny being the more sexually experienced. Greg finds a

strange pair of slippers under the bed and is too besotted to believe they might have been left by another man (which would also explain the bunches of flowers and boxes of sweets filling Ginny's apartment). Ginny goes off for a day in the country, supposedly to visit her parents but actually to break things off with her older married lover, Philip. Greg decides to follow her. The next scene is on the patio at the home of Philip and his befuddled wife Sheila, whose marriage is clearly under strain. Greg shows up unannounced before Ginny, and wrongly assumes that they are her parents. Greg asks for her hand from Philip, while Philip mistakenly believes that the strange young man is asking permission to marry Sheila. Once Ginny arrives, she convinces Philip to play the role of her father. Meanwhile, Greg still believes that Sheila is Ginny's mother. The situation becomes

increasingly complicated and hilarious.

Not Dead Enough Methuen Drama

The Theatre Arts Audition Books offer one hundred speeches from plays of the past twenty-five years, fifty in a volume for men, fifty in a volume for women. Each excerpt is preceded by a note situating the play and the selection. Speeches come from a wide range of plays, including David Mamet's *Oleanna*, Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*, Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Jim Cartwright's *Road*, and Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*, as well as plays by Anthony Minghella, Mark Ravenhill, Sue Townsend, Alan Ayckbourn, and others. Annika Bluhm has assembled two sparkling collections of monologues that will challenge and inspire the actor.

Taking Steps Samuel French Limited

The central character of Alan Ayckbourn's new play is Susan, a parson's wife, 'one of the most moving and devastating that he has created...' Robin Thornber reviewing the first production in Scarborough in the Guardian.

Brenton Versus Brenton Samuel French Limited

"In this play, Annie has arranged to spend an illicit weekend with her sister Ruth's husband Norman, and for this reason, suitably disguised, has asked her elder brother Reg and his wife Sarah to look after their widowed mother and the house. As it happens the seduction, thought or planned, by each of the six characters never takes place either"--Publisher's website.

Improbable Fiction Simon and Schuster

A student edition of five one-act plays by Britain's most popular playwright. Ayckbourn's series of plays for 4-5 actors typify his black comedies of human behaviour. First produced in 1976, the

plays are alternately naturalistic, stylised and farcical, but underlying each is the problem of loneliness. *The Mother Figure* shows a mother unable to escape from baby talk; in *The Drinking Companion* an absentee husband attempts seduction without success; in *Between Mouthfuls*, a waiter oversees a fraught dinner encounter. A garden party gets out of hand in *Gosforth's Fete* whilst *A Talk in the Park* is a revue style curtain call piece for the five actors. Whether the comedies concern marital conflict, infidelity or motherhood and take place on a park bench or at a village fete, the characters are familiar and their cries for help instantly recognisable. "Principally he is respected as a radical re-inventor of form" Dominic Dromgoole

One Million Tiny Plays about Britain Samuel French, Inc.

England's comic master is in a black comic mode in this West End hit about our fascination with technology. It is sometime quite soon in a steel shuttered, slovenly flat in a no go area of North London where punks rule deserted streets. Here, a lonely composer sits surrounded by high tech equipment. His only company is a robot nanny, and she's on the blink. He desperately wants to reclaim his teenage daughter and enlists an out of work actress to implement a cunning plan he's evolved to impress his estranged wife and a wired for sound child welfare officer. When things don't work out, Jerome has to improvise... It's amazing what can be done with new micro chips and a screwdriver

Confusions Lulu.com

National Theatre, Louis A. Lotito, managing director, Michael Myerberg, Peter Bridge, and Eddie Kulukundis in association with Lawrence Shubert Lawrence present *Phil Silvers*, Sandy Dennis in "How the Other Half Loves," a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, also

starring Richard Mulligan, Bernice Massi, Tom Aldredge, Jeanne Hepple, designed by David Mitchell, lighted by Peggy Clark, costumes by Winn Morton, directed by Gene Saks.

Confusions Silvermoon Publishing

1930s England, Christmas Eve in the manor house of the bumbling aristocrat, Sir Walton Gates and his wife Grace. His daughter from a previous marriage arrives from town with her new companion in tow, the dashing James Washington and added to the mix is Sir Walton's estranged brother Archie, recently returned from years spent in Australia, bringing with him an appetite for mischief and a dodgy accent. Enter England's most confused police officer, Sergeant Pratt, who unwittingly kicks a hornet's nest of English gentility and the evening soon descends into chaos with hilarious consequences. Magic tricks will fail miserably, shots will inadvertently ring out and identities will be confused but can Pratt identify the individual with murderous intent before a body is found? Probably not ... In the new prequel to the Inspector Pratt Trilogy, *Sleighed to Death* takes us back to the ignominious start of Inspector Pratt's career and we discover that his early life as a policeman is no less hilarious!

The Beginner's Guide to Murdering Your Husband Routledge

"The hallmarks of a Ridley classic; a fast-paced modern fairy-tale that burrows into the dark wormholes of the imagination ... reveals how below all that glitters, there's rarely gold." Exeunt Ollie and Jill want to tell you about their dream home. Some of the things they did to get it, you might find shocking. But they want you to know they did it all for their baby... A wickedly comic satire about a young couple offered a 'too good to be true' way onto the property ladder. Playful, provocative, and viciously

sharp, this outrageous black comedy is a meditation on how far we will go to satisfy - and justify - materialistic greed. *Radiant Vermin* premiered in 2015 at Soho Theatre, London. This Modern Classics edition features a brand new introduction by Aleks Sierz.

How the Other Half Loves Psychology Press

Jack McCracken has the opportunity of a lifetime: he is the new head of a family furniture business and believes he will initiate a new age of honesty and integrity. He quickly learns that everyone else involved in the enterprise has a vested interest in maintaining business as usual, rife with dishonesty and deceit "-- *Life of Riley* Samuel French, Inc.

A two-act play in which preconceptions about gender, romance, and "lifestyle" are scrambled, neutralized, and possibly even rebuilt.

Roundelay Pan Macmillan

This play is presented as though it is an instructional video that the audience are watching being filmed. Maddy will present a variety of methods for disposing of an unwanted husband, aided by Jim, her real life husband, and her faithful employees. But is she really trying to get rid of her husband? Is the video just a ruse to lull him into a false sense of security? The parallels with their real life relationship give Jim plenty to worry about but, as the play reaches its its climax, we realise that nothing is what it seems. Criss-cross indeed! Type: Comedy Length: Full length Cast: 3f, 2m

Caroline's Kitchen Bloomsbury Publishing

Detective Superintendent Roy Grace thinks he's found a serial killer, but not everything is as it seems in *Not Dead Enough*, by award-winning crime author Peter James. Now a major ITV series,

Grace, adapted for television by screenwriter Russell Lewis and starring John Simm. A beautiful socialite is dead. Roy Grace's leading suspect, her husband, was sixty miles away when she died, but all other evidence points to him. Has someone stolen his identity or is he simply a very clever liar? Grace's investigation, and his budding new relationship, are derailed after a reported sighting of his wife, Sandy, who has been missing for nine years. Grace desperately tries to cast light on the truth in both cases as his emotional turmoil – and the body count – grows . . . Although the Roy Grace novels can be read in any order, *Not Dead Enough* is the third thrilling title in the bestselling series. Enjoy more of the Brighton detective's investigations in *Dead Man's Footsteps* and *Dead Tomorrow*. Now a major ITV series, *Grace*, starring John Simm.

Ten Times Table Bloomsbury Publishing

Irascible author Algy Waterbridge is hard at work on his thirty-third crime novel. While Algy's wife is getting more forgetful, and his PA frequently oversteps the mark, the constant interruptions come to a head with an unfortunate newspaper interview. As Algy's fictional characters take over, the lines between fiction and reality become blurred. A comedy of confusion about a grumpy old man who might not be so grumpy after all.

Cloud 9 Samuel French, Inc.

A play set in the foreseeable future when everything has changed except human nature; a future where TV daytime soaps are performed by android actors emotionally programmed by the control room. One, JC 31333, finds herself humanized as Jacie Triplethree, complete with a sense of humour and Adam, a young scriptwriter, falls for her.

Invisible Friends Samuel French Limited

Revised and expanded edition for use with all Drama and Theatre Studies A & AS specifications.

Table Manners London ; New York : S. French

First performed at London's Apollo Theatre in 1976, 'Confusions', a series of one-act plays, typifies Ayckbourn's particular brand of black comedy on human behaviour. The plays are alternately naturalistic, stylised and farcical, but underlying each is the echoing problem of profound loneliness. 'The Mother Figure' shows a mother unable to escape from baby talk; in 'The Drinking Companion' an absentee husband attempts seduction without success; in 'Between Mouthfuls' a waiter oversees a fraught dinner encounter. A garden party gets out of hand in 'Gosforth's Fête' while 'A Talk in the Park' is a revue style curtain call piece for five actors. Whether the comedies concern marital conflict, infidelity or motherhood; take place on a park bench or at a village fete, the characters are familiar and their cries for help instantly recognisable.

Ladies' Day Samuel French, Inc.

A Wonder Woman and bride-to-be finds herself worse for wear at the end of a hen night; a funeral director's love of Manchester United proves unhelpful when talking to the bereaved; two overly-vigilant mothers wrestle with their paranoia in the queue for Santa's Grotto; a widow recounts her disastrous return to the world of dating and a father realises that his son is growing away from him as he helps him tie his football boots. In these snippets of overheard conversations from across the length and breadth of the country, Craig Taylor captures the state we're in with humour and pathos and perfect timing. Laugh-out-loud funny, and

sometimes heartbreakingly moving, these tiny plays in which every one of us could have a starring role are little windows into other people's lives that reveal the triumphs, disasters, prejudices, horrors and joys of twenty-first-century life. Hugely

entertaining and utterly addictive, this is book that can be dipped into or feasted upon in one sitting. It will change the way you listen to the world around you, and train journeys will never be the same again.

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