

## Midsummer Faber Drama

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*Midsummer Faber Drama*

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### MORA HOUSTON

**A Pocket Guide to Ibsen, Chekhov and Strindberg** Faber & Faber

Taking the literary world by storm, Eimear McBride's internationally praised debut is one of the most acclaimed novels in recent years; it is "subversive, passionate, and darkly alchemical. Read it and be changed" (Eleanor Catton). Eimear McBride's debut tells, with astonishing insight and in riveting detail, the story of a young woman's relationship with her brother, the long shadow cast by his childhood brain tumour, and her harrowing sexual awakening. Not so much a stream-of-consciousness, as an unconscious railing against a life that makes little sense, and a shocking and intimate insight into the thoughts, feelings and chaotic sexuality of a vulnerable and isolated protagonist, *A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing* plunges inside its narrator's head, exposing her world firsthand. This isn't always comfortable—but it is always a revelation. Touching on everything from family violence to religion to addiction, and the personal struggle to remain intact in times of

intense trauma, McBride writes with singular intensity, acute sensitivity, and mordant wit. *A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing* is moving, funny, and alarming. It is a book you will never forget.

*Dallas Sweetman* Macmillan

Duck Macatarsney cares for her biker dad, Duke, whose MS is getting worse. Duke is a spliff-smoking (for medicinal reasons you understand), bike-riding, heavy-metal- and horror-movie-loving, pizza-eating widower who has brought up Duck since the death of her mum in a crash. The two of them are just about surviving when one morning the Duke wakes up blind and the Duck hears Social Services are coming to take her away. *The Monster in the Hall* follows Duck as she tries to protect her world from the terrifying prospect of change. David Greig's *The Monster in the Hall* premiered at the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow, in autumn 2010, and was staged at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh in 2011 as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

*The Suppliant Women* Faber & Faber

This play takes readers back and forth between the 19th and 20th centuries. Set in a large country house in Derbyshire, a cast of characters from each century play out their respective dramas.

[The Faber Book of Beasts](#) Penguin

Two women wash up on a distant shore following a violent boating accident. Dazed by their experience, they look for a path home. But they discover that this unfamiliar land is not what it seems - and that, though they may be together, they have never been further apart. Unflinchingly honest and tenderly lyrical, *Meet Me at Dawn* is a modern fable exploring the triumph of everyday love, the mystery of grief, and the temptation to become lost in a fantasy future that will never be. *Meet Me at Dawn* by Zinnie Harris premiered at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, in August 2017.

*The Hard Problem* Random House Books for Young Readers

The essential, concise and readable guide to the plays of Ibsen, Chekhov and Strindberg. Are you looking for an overview of the major work of these three leading playwrights? Are you going to see a play by Ibsen, Chekhov or Strindberg and want a run-down of the storyline? Do you want to know why these three are considered major writers? *A Pocket Guide to Ibsen, Chekhov and Strindberg* gives you all this and more: An introduction to each playwright Historical and theatrical context to

their plays A synopsis for and analysis of each of the major plays Details of productions around the world A chronology of plays during the period Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) and August Strindberg (1848-1912) are acknowledged masters of their craft. This handy reference book aims to tell you why they should be considered as such, as well as giving you a snapshot view of the plays and a considered view of the writers. Faber's 'Pocket Guide' series includes: A Pocket Guide to Shakespeare's Plays, A Pocket Guide to the 20th Century Theatre, A Pocket Guide to Opera and A Pocket Guide to Alan Ayckbourn's Plays.

**Lacan, Psychoanalysis, and Comedy** Pan Macmillan

Why do we return to Shakespeare time and again? When Robert McCrum began his recovery from a life-changing stroke, described in *My Year Off*, he discovered that the only words that made sense to him were snatches of Shakespeare. Unable to travel or move as he used to, McCrum found the First Folio became his 'book of life', an endless source of inspiration through which he could embark on 'journeys of the mind', and see a reflection of our own disrupted times. An acclaimed writer and journalist, McCrum has spent the last twenty-five years immersed in Shakespeare's work, on stage and on the page. During this prolonged exploration, Shakespeare's poetry and plays, so vivid and contemporary, have become his guide and consolation. In Shakespearean he asks: why is it that we always return to Shakespeare, particularly in times of acute crisis and dislocation? What is the key to his hold on our imagination? And why do the collected works of an Elizabethan writer continue to speak to us as if they were written yesterday? Shakespearean is a rich, brilliant and superbly drawn portrait of an extraordinary artist, one of the greatest writers who ever lived. Through an enthralling narrative, ranging widely in time and space, McCrum seeks to understand Shakespeare within his historical context while also exploring the secrets of literary inspiration, and examining the nature of creativity itself. Witty and insightful, he makes a passionate and deeply personal case that Shakespeare's words and ideas are not just enduring in their relevance – they are nothing less than the eternal key to our shared humanity.

*The Jade Lily* Simon and Schuster

If great drama flourishes in a changing world, the twentieth century may prove itself the most dramatically fruitful ever. The briefest historical outline shows a time of extraordinary upheaval, and twentieth-century drama's greatest achievement was that it managed to reflect those changes with courage, vision, and artistry. In *A Pocket Guide to 20th Century Drama*, Stephen Unwin and Carole Woddis examine fifty seminal works from the past one hundred years, and in the process chart some of the most profound events of that era -- from Anton Chekhov's illustration of the fin-de-siecle clash in cultural value systems in *The Cherry Orchard* to World War II's legacy of moral despair as voiced in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* to Tony Kushner's stark and moving exploration of the ravages of AIDS in *Angels in America*. For each play, a precis is provided, along with a brief essay on its historical and literary context and a rundown of pertinent productions. In addition, the authors provide both an overview of the past century in history and drama, and a chronicle of one thousand of the century's notable plays, providing an understanding of what other works were being written at the time.

*Molly Fox's Birthday* Farrar, Straus and Giroux

A detailed guide to approaching Shakespearean text, *Speak the speech!* contains everything an actor needs to select and prepare a Shakespeare monologue for classwork, auditions, or performance. Included herein are over 150 monologues. Each one is placed in context with a brief introduction, is carefully punctuated in the manner that best illustrates its meaning, and is painstakingly and thoroughly annotated. Each is also accompanied by commentary that will spark the actor's imagination by exploring how the interrelationship of meter and the choice of words and sounds yields clues to character and performance. And throughout the book sidebars relate historical, topical, technical, and other useful and entertaining information relevant to the text. In addition, the authors include an overview of poetic and rhetorical elements, brief synopses of all

the plays, and a comprehensive index along with other guidelines that will help readers locate the perfect monologue for their needs.

*A Pocket Guide to Shakespeare's Plays* Simon and Schuster

A Finalist for the Orange Prize It is the height of summer, and celebrated actor Molly Fox has loaned her house in Dublin to a friend while she is away performing in New York. Alone among all of Molly's possessions, struggling to finish her latest play, she looks back on the many years and many phases of her friendship with Molly and their college friend Andrew, and comes to wonder whether they really knew each other at all. She revisits the intense closeness of their early days, the transformations they each made in the name of success and security, the lies they told each other, and betrayals they never acknowledged. Set over a single midsummer's day, Molly Fox's *Birthday* is a mischievous, insightful novel about a turning point--a moment when past and future suddenly appear in a new light.

*The Uninvited Guests* A&C Black

Wild and newly single, Julie throws a late night party. In the kitchen, Jean and Kristina clean up as the celebration heaves above them. Crossing the threshold, Julie initiates a power game with Jean. It descends into a savage fight for survival.Polly Stenham reimagines August Strindberg's Miss Julie in contemporary London.Julie premiered at the National Theatre, London, in May 2018.

*Classics in Post-Colonial Worlds* Faber & Faber

Late at night in a foreign land, an English army sweeps through the landscape under cover of darkness and takes the seat of power. Struggling to contain his men and the ambitions of his superiors, the commanding officer attempts to negotiate the unspoken rules of this alien country. He seeks to restore peace to a country ravaged by war. This is Scotland in the eleventh century at the height of the fight for succession of the Scottish throne. David Greig's *Dunsinane* premiered in February 2010 at Hampstead Theatre, London, in a production by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**Ballerina Dreams: From Orphan to Dancer (Step Into Reading, Step 4)** Macmillan

Secrets, betrayal and shocking revelations await in Sweden's stunning holiday islands . . . The Hidden Beach is the addictive page-turner by bestselling author, Karen Swan. Two's a love story. Three's a crowd. In Stockholm's oldest quarter, Bell Everhurst loves her job working as a nanny for the rich and charming Hanna and Max Mogert, caring for their three children. But one morning, everything changes. A woman from a clinic Bell has never heard of asks her to pass on the message that Hanna's husband is awake. But the man isn't her husband Max. As the truth about Hanna's past is revealed, the consequences are devastating. As the family heads off to spend their summer on Sweden's idyllic islands, will Bell be caught in the crossfire? 'Deliciously glamorous, irresistibly romantic!' - Hello! Enjoy more of Karen Swan's captivating seasonal novels: *The Greek Escape* and *The Rome Affair*.

**The Feast** Faber & Faber

Perfect for newly independent readers—discover the amazing life of one of America's top ballerinas, Michaela DePrince, whose story is soon to be told in a major motion picture directed by Madonna. At the age of three, Michaela DePrince found a photo of a ballerina that changed her life. She was living in an orphanage in Sierra Leone at the time, but was soon adopted by a family and brought to America. Michaela never forgot the photo of the dancer she once saw, and quickly decided to make her dream of becoming a ballerina come true. She has been dancing ever since and is now a principal dancer in New York City and has been featured in the ballet documentary *First Position*, as well as *Dancing with the Stars*, *Good Morning America*, and *Oprah* magazine. Young readers will love learning about this inspiring ballerina in this uplifting and informative leveled reader. This Step 4 Step into Reading book is for newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.

**Midsummer** Faber & Faber

Krapp's Last Tape was first performed by Patrick Magee at the Royal Court Theatre in October 1958, and described as 'a solo, if that is the word, for one voice and two organs: one human, one mechanical. It fills few pages. It is perhaps the most original and important play of its length ever written.' (Roy Walker) The present volume brings together Krapp's Last Tape and Beckett's other shorter works or 'dramaticules' written for the stage. It will be complemented by a forthcoming Faber edition of dramatic works written for radio and screen. Arranged in chronological order of composition, these shorter plays exhibit the laconic means and compassionate ends of Beckett's dramatic vision. KRAPP 'Here I end this reel. Box - [ Pause.] - three, spool - [ Pause.] - five. [ Pause.] Perhaps my best years have gone. When there was a chance of happiness. But I wouldn't want them back. Not with the fire in me now. No, I wouldn't want them back. [ Staring motionless before him.]

*A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* Faber & Faber Plays

The Faber Book of Beasts is a collection of many of the best poems in English about the creatures who share our planet. The animal kingdom has prompted some of the liveliest and most enjoyable writing by poets, from Homer to our contemporaries. Among the creatures gathered here, tame or wild; common or exotic, are mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, and others perhaps more fanciful than real. A zoologist's delight. There is, too, a moral or philosophical purpose. As Paul Muldoon says in his introduction: 'We are most human in the presence of animals.' And it is just this sense of how our humanity is illuminated by the contemplation of bestial life that he has set out to celebrate. The results are wonderfully rich and thought-provoking.

*The Dramatic Text Workbook and Video* Knopf Canada

One wintry morning academic Prudencia Hart sets off to a conference in the Scottish Borders. Stranded there by snow, she is swept off on a dream-like journey of self discovery, complete with magical moments, devilish encounters and wittily wild music. 'You shouldn't miss this for the world . . . Rambunctiously life-affirming and touchingly beautiful.' Herald 'More vibrantly alive than any piece of theatre I've seen in Scotland for years.' Scotsman Inspired by the Border ballads, *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* toured throughout Scotland in 2011 in a production by the National Theatre of Scotland.

*Shakespearean* Faber & Faber

An anthology of twenty-nine theatrical works, with critical commentary.

**Shakespeare in Love** Simon and Schuster

Young Will Shakespeare has writers block... the deadline for his new play is fast approaching but hes in desperate need of inspiration. That is, until he finds his muse – Viola. This beautiful young woman is Will's greatest admirer and will stop at nothing (including breaking the law) to appear in his next play. Against a bustling background of mistaken identity, ruthless scheming and backstage theatrics, Will's love for Viola quickly blossoms and inspires him to write his greatest masterpiece.

*When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other* Faber & Faber

*Impro for Storytellers* is the follow-up to Keith Johnstone's classic *Impro*, one of the best-selling books ever published on improvisation. *Impro for Storytellers* aims to take jealous and self-obsessed beginners and teach them to play games with good nature and to fail gracefully.

*Julie* Faber & Faber

Go on then: lock the doors and see what happens. Show me how much power you really have. *When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other* breaks through the surface of contemporary debate to explore the messy, often violent nature of desire and the fluid, complicated roles that men and women play. Using Samuel Richardson's novel *Pamela* as a provocation, six characters act out a dangerous game of sexual domination and resistance. *When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other* premiered at the National Theatre, London, in January 2019.