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Gas Light Details

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From Reader Review Gas Light for online ebook

Maria says

This play, as many people know, birthed the term "gaslighting" and, as such, seems like it might have a lot of contemporary relevance. But, as written, I think is virtually un-performable in the modern day.

I came in prepared for Mr. Manningham to treat his wife badly but I was not prepared for the paternalism of Mr. Rough. Or the complete lack of agency for Mrs. Manningham in changing her situation, or even in speaking or working through her situation. I was also unprepared for the insertion of a stereotypical sexpot servant.

Reading this aloud with friends, we spent much of the time laughing uproariously and groaning. And speaking about how it would take radical casting or style to be able to engage with the work as it stands. The dimming of the gaslight is still a beautiful and chilling image and I think the action of making a person doubt their perception of reality is very relevant today even if this source text does not seem to have withstood the test of time as well.

Fishface says

Wonderful, suspenseful story of a man trying to convince his wife that she's insane. Powerful enough to have brought the word "gaslight" into the English language as a transitive verb. 150 years after it was written this is still one of the best psychological thrillers ever.

Wanda says

25 OCT 2016 - a recommendation through Bettie. The film showcases a great cast. The book should be fun to read. Many Thanks!

Cach the film on Youtube here - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SPcYkxm...>

30 OCT 2016 - a great film with a great cast. 4 stars. Thank you, Dear Bettie.

Jessi says

I wanted to read this play after reading about "gaslighting" which is a form of psychological abuse which involves trying to convince a person that they are losing their sanity. I absolutely loved the interaction between the characters, the ongoing tension, and best of all is Mrs Manning's monologue at the end, but I guess thats a vindictive part of me that enjoys seeing a downtrodden lady getting her own back. Short, but thoroughly enjoyable, I would love to able to get hold of the British film released in 1940.

Bettie? says

Description: *Years after her aunt was murdered in her home, a young woman moves back into the house with her new husband. However, he has a secret that he will do anything to protect, even if it means driving his wife insane.*

**"I believe I'm going to be
very interested in number twelve."**

The Murder in Thornton Square 1940 (aka Gaslight) Full Film

With all the Trumpy gaslighting going on, it was good to re-visit the play which gave us the definition of psychological manipulation. Mr Mallen, in this version, has a white streak running through his hair and suspect it fired the imagination and gave rise to a highly popular story line for Catherine Cookson.

In 1944, Hollywood remade the film:

Charles Boyer
Ingrid Bergman (oscar performance)
Joseph Cotten
Angela Lansbury

Anirudh Jain says

Quick Summary: The ramblings of a borderline insane middle-aged woman is no longer fluff when a policeman decides to investigate.

The play has 5 characters and no one character is written so as to dominate the entire play, it is divided into 3 arcs and each gets sufficient screen time and dialogue. It is a simple mystery with the twist that can be seen from a mile away but enjoyable none the less.

Hayley says

A quick read and what I would imagine to be a thoroughly enjoyable play to watch. It's certainly made me interested in watching the film version with Ingrid Bergman.

Robert says

Read with Portland Playreaders

Realini says

Gaslight, based on a play by Patrick Hamilton

A different version of this note and thoughts on other books are available at:

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list...> and <http://realini.blogspot.ro/>

Gaslight is a first rate drama.

It is included on the New York Times' Best 1,000 Movies Ever Made List:

- <http://www.listchallenges.com/new-yor...>

It is directed by the genius George Cukor.

The man behind such classics as:

- My Fair Lady, The Philadelphia Story, Adam's Rib and more

In the leading roles we have Ingrid Bergman, who won the Academy Award and the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a leading role.

Indeed, her portrayal of Paula Alquist is sublime.

In the other leading role we have Charles Boyer as Gregory Anton.

And he is terrific as well.

Paula Alquist is a young woman who is taking singing lessons in the first scenes of the film, with a famous professor.

Accompanying her on the piano is Gregory Anton.

In a discussion with the professor, the singer mentions the fact that she will never achieve the status of her aunt.

The older man is sure that there is something very important that is distracting his pupil, perhaps she is in love?

- Well, as soon as the singer is out the door, we see her talking and embracing the piano player and planning a trip

In the train, an English woman talks to Paula about a mysterious murder that took place right across from her house.

As the young woman is getting ever more upset, the details of the crime are revealed, as long as they are known.

But the station of her destination is here and Paula descends in Como, where she is met by the man she loves. Gregory Anton is a very challenging role, for this is a sophisticated, educated, talented player and composer.

His manners are refined, his charm is impressive, the appearance is that of an aristocrat and he is definitely a gentleman.

Only it becomes clear that behind this attractive façade, we have a devilish individual with dark purposes in mind.

He insists that he would like to live in London, where the homeless are unhappy, but which is the best place to be for people who have a home, on a square.

Paula Alquist has the proper mansion, left as inheritance to her by the opera celebrity, her aunt who was killed right near the home of the woman in the train.

Once they are married and moved into the London home, Gregory Anton is showing his true colors, right as Paula finds a letter and he shouts that she needs to give it to him and the audience can see this is a villain. He accuses his wife of stealing paintings, losing precious objects and imagining things like footsteps at night.

His plan is to drive the poor spouse crazy, in a sort of reverse of the Pygmalion Effect, a psychological phenomenon that has proved that if you believe strongly that someone is able to achieve success, that happens.

When he gives his wife a brooch, he then steals it to claim she is so mad she does not know what she is doing.

In a sort of climax, in the middle of a concert with a large crowd in attendance, Gregory Anton claims his watch had been stolen.

He knows this will provoke a crisis and a breakdown of his spouse, especially after he checks her purse and finds his watch there.

Brian Cameron is a detective that had been puzzled by the killing of the famous opera singer and he represents the only hope for Paula.

She is isolated in the house and her resilience is fast breaking up, faced with a continuous attack from Gregory.

Capital film.

El (book.monkey) says

Good play but a bit obvious, the ending is very predictable I believe.

Susan says

A woman fears she is losing her mind, as her husband threatens to have her committed, but what's really going on? This old-fashioned thriller was a suspenseful read. Gaslight (also titled Angel Street) was the basis for the Oscar winning movie with Ingrid Bergman, Charles Boyer, and Angela Lansbury. (The author also wrote the play, Rope, which was made into a movie by Alfred Hitchcock).

Mary says

Life is weirder than fiction.

Dave says

A good, solid suspense thriller.

Kevin says

This is a very dated (and, yes, period) play featuring a proto-feminist protagonist who is basically a shut-in terrorized by her husband into thinking she just might be insane. A strange man waltzes into her house after convincing one of the maids that the protagonist's husband is a jerk and confronts the main character with about an hour's worth of supposition pertaining to the husband's jerkiness. The only reason I consider the main character to be proto-feminist is because at the end, the police tie the husband to a chair (WTF?) and leave the two of them alone while she returns the whole "maybe I'm crazy" vibe while climbing all over him with a knife saying she might kill him. I suppose 150 years ago, in the age of shut-ins, that'd be almost as liberating as wearing pants and having a position in management somewhere.

Lisa Ahn says

The term "gaslighting" comes from Hamilton's play and the actions of its central characters. Mrs. Manningham thinks she is going insane. Her husband says she steals and removes items, but she has no memory of those actions. She also notices strange sounds from the locked top floor of their house, and a suspicious dimming of the gas lights every evening. In the course of the drama, she learns that her husband has been trying to convince her that she's insane in order to cover up his own crimes. Three acts, lots of suspense.
