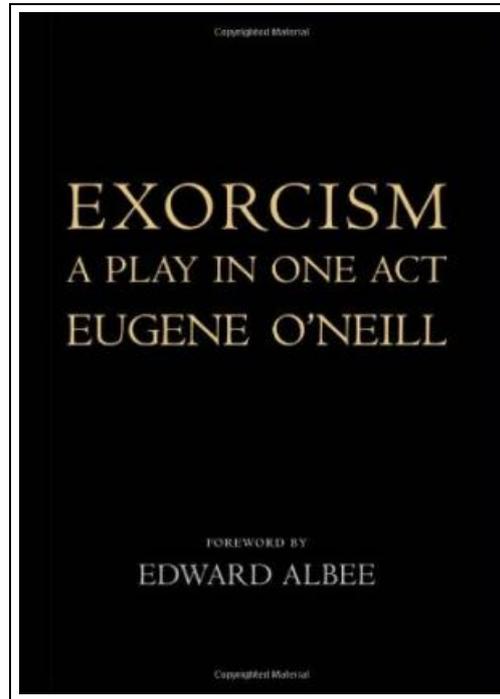


Exorcism: A Play in One Act



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Reviews

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EXORCISM: A PLAY IN ONE ACT



Yale University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Exorcism: A Play in One Act, Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, Edward Albee, Louise Bernard, Shortly after the debut of Exorcism in 1920, Eugene O'Neill suddenly canceled production and ordered all extant copies of the drama destroyed. For over ninety years, it was believed that the play was irrevocably lost, until it was recently discovered that O'Neill's second wife had in fact retained a copy, which she later gave to the prolific screenwriter and producer Philip Jordan. In early 2011, Jordan's widow discovered the typescript of Exorcism-complete with edits in O'Neill's own hand-in her late husband's vast trove of papers. The discovery and publication of Exorcism, a relatively early play in the O'Neill corpus, furthers our knowledge of O'Neill's dramatic development and reveals a pivotal point in the career of this great American playwright. Revolving around a suicide attempt, Exorcism draws on a dark incident in O'Neill's own life. This defining event led to his first serious efforts to write. Exorcism displays early examples of O'Neill's unparalleled skills of capturing deeply personal human drama, and it explores major themes-mourning and melancholia, addiction and sobriety, tensions between fathers and sons-that would permeate his later work. According to Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library curator Louise Bernard, who acquired the play from a New York bookseller, "Exorcism might be read as a preparatory sketch that resonates powerfully with Long Day's Journey into Night, one that brings the O'Neill family drama full circle in ways at once intimate and grandly conceived."



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