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Anna In The Tropics



Synopsis

Starring Jimmy Smits, this poetic Pulitzer Prize winning play captures 1929 Florida at a time when cigars are still rolled by hand and lectors are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration. But when he reads aloud from Anna Karenina, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics, and The American Dream prove a volatile combination. A L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Alma Martinez, Jonathan Nichols, Winston Rocha, Onahoua Rodriguez, Adriana Sevan, Herbert Siguenza and Jimmy Smits. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour and 49 minutes

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Customer Reviews

The dialogue is decent and the characters are fine. The strength of the story is how the reading of Anna Karenina by the lector inside the cigar factory both effects and reflects the characters' lives. This won the the 2003 Pulitzer Prize. That's pretty surprising to me, as this play, while decent, doesn't have anything that comes off as exemplary. Now, I've only read it, and there is an excellent chance that it is transformed into something different on the stage with the proper actors...but still, the dialogue and the plot are just not very strong. It's a play about family and romantic love, yet there are no "a-ha" moments, nor are there any lyrical lines that cause you to swoon over language use.

This play has an interesting setting and a lot of beautiful language, but Cruz does not successfully use these to create a memorable piece. The history of the cigar factory lectors is one I did not know;

I read up on it a bit after reading this play. If nothing else, Cruz gets credit for reviving interest in this bit of history. The language of the characters belies their backgrounds, but this can be chalked up to literary license, and even to a touch of magical realism. But the story just lies there, and once their florid language is stripped away, the characters are mainly archetypes in a battle of ruthless progress versus the way we've always done things, and leaves little to remember.

Great addition to our library

Excellent play for play reading group or book club

I liked the play and will probably end up using it for a scene design project in Grad school, but it just ends. Without spoilers, something big happens and then it ends. It is never explained and you never get to see the consequences of the event. Left me wanting more.

very good

The play was a great play to read about, and the book was in good condition. This play I enjoy reading because it was on how the cigar industry was coming to a declined.

Love it

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