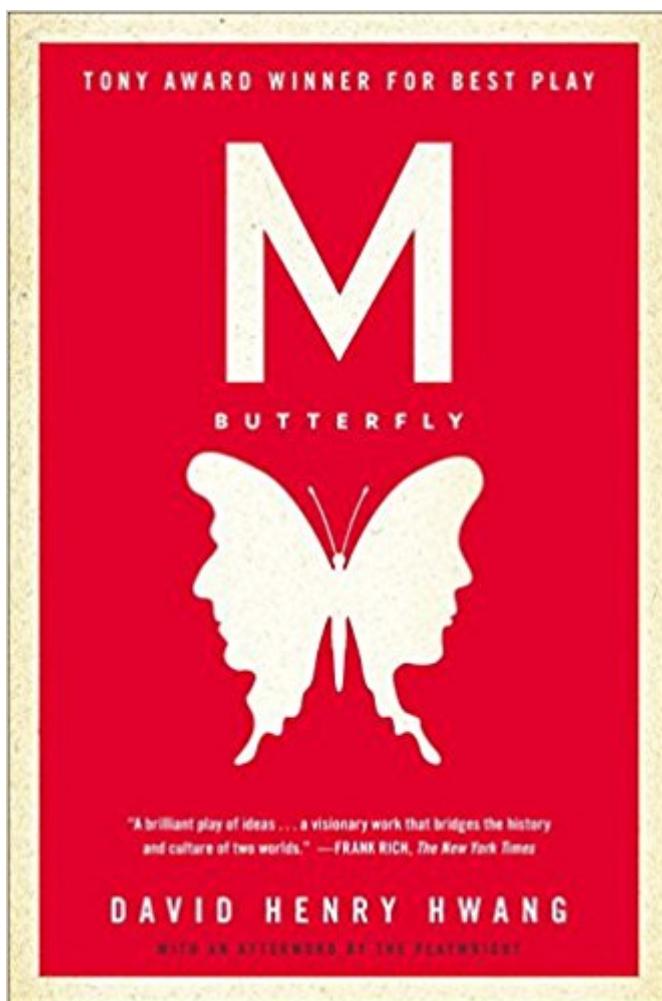


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M. Butterfly: With An Afterword By The Playwright



Synopsis

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and soon to be back on Broadway in a revival directed by the Lion King's Julie Taymor, starring Clive Owen" A brilliant play of ideas" — Frank Rich, *The New York Times* Based on a true story that stunned the world, and inspired by Giacomo Puccini's opera *Madama Butterfly*, *M. Butterfly* was an immediate sensation when it premiered in 1988. It opens in the cramped prison cell where diplomat Rene Gallimard is being held captive by the French government — and by his own illusions. He recalls a time when Song Liling, the beautiful Chinese diva, touched him with a love as vivid, as seductive — and as elusive — as a butterfly. How could he have known that his true love was, in fact, a spy for the Chinese government — and a man disguised as a woman? The diplomat relives the twenty-year affair from the temptation to the seduction, from its consummation to the scandal that ultimately consumed them both. *M. Butterfly* is one of the most compelling, explosive, and slyly humorous dramas ever to light the Broadway stage, a work of unrivaled brilliance, illuminating the conflict between men and women, the differences between East and West, racial stereotypes — and the shadows we cast around our most cherished illusions. The original cast included John Lithgow as Gallimard and BD Wong as Song Liling. During the show's 777-performance run, David Dukes, Anthony Hopkins, Tony Randall, and John Rubinstein were also cast as Gallimard. Hwang adapted the play for a 1993 film directed by David Cronenberg, starring Jeremy Irons and John Lone.

TEXT OF THE ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION

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Customer Reviews

"A brilliant play of ideas — a visionary work that bridges the history and culture of two worlds." — Frank Rich, *New York Times* "Audaciously imaginative — big in conception and theme, David Henry Hwang joins the first string of American playwrights." — Variety "Just when you've seen every possible coupling, *M. Butterfly* presents one of the most provocative and touching of all." — USA Today "Hwang has something to say and an original, audacious way of saying it. A rarity on Broadway." — Edwin Wilson, *Wall Street Journal*

John Lithgow and B. D. Wong recreate their original roles from the Tony Award-winning production of *M. Butterfly*. Inspired by an actual espionage scandal, a French diplomat discovers the startling truth about his Chinese mistress. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance starring John Lithgow and B.D. Wong alongside Margaret Cho, David Dukes, Joanna Frank, Arye Gross and Kathryn Layng. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This is by far one of my favorite works by DHH. I used it to study in my Asian literature class and I'd read it again. It was an interesting take on real-life events and this play also found its way to Broadway. Good read.

I really loved everything about this play. The absurdity of it coupled with the fact that it was based on real events. How the play writer tied it in with an existing opera to further depict the psychology behind why the protagonist fell for the antagonist.

This play is a very high spirited read. It keeps you on the edge of your seat wondering what will happen next. This play is brilliant. This read is brilliant.

It explores the nature and extent of love and how it borders on, and influences, self knowledge. The play takes place entirely within the mind of the protagonist, some imagined, some remembered. A challenge to both actors and audience.

I loved this play and would recommend *Chin'glish* as another must-read by Hwang.

The story is well written and showing the differences between the eastern women and western women. The writers also shows the fantasy towards eastern women.

A fascinating, visceral take on the conflation of racism and sexism that is Orientalism. A must-read.

I wouldn't have picked this book up on my own, but it was a good read. It was very interesting and can be a little confusing at first until you realize what is going on. The ending gets really good and all the pieces start to come together.

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