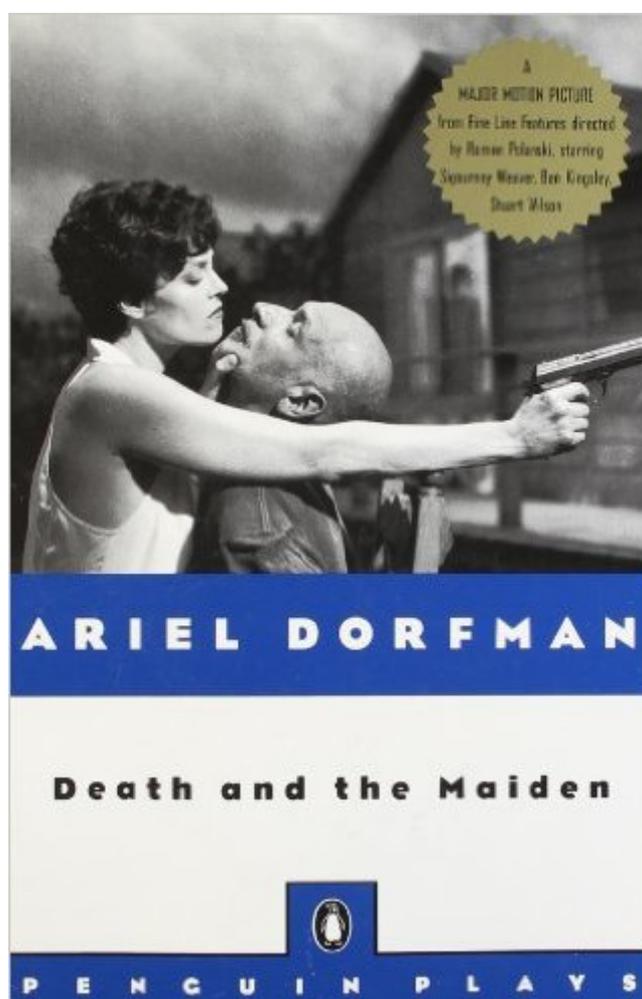


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Death And The Maiden



Synopsis

Ariel Dorfman's explosively provocative, award-winning drama is set in a country that has only recently returned to democracy. Gerardo Escobar has just been chosen to head the commission that will investigate the crimes of the old regime when his car breaks down and he is picked up by the humane doctor Roberto Miranda. But in the voice of this good Samaritan, Gerardo's wife, Paulina Salas, thinks she recognizes another man—the one who raped and tortured her as she lay blindfolded in a military detention center years before.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (December 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140246843

ISBN-13: 978-0140246841

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Written by Chilean author Ariel Dorfman and first performed in 1990, DEATH AND THE MAIDEN is a play in three acts that requires one woman, two men, and a set that depicts a living room and terrace but which later transforms into an abstract concert hall. The play also requires the use of handgun, which must be fired on stage, and while it does not include special effects it makes significant demands on sound and light design. The story concerns Gerardo Escobar and his wife Paulina, who live in a Latin American country that is never specified but is likely Chile. Several years ago the country underwent a military coup. Gerardo and Paulina worked against the military, and Paulina was captured and viciously tortured. Now the nation has begun to return to normalcy, and Gerardo has been appointed to a commission that will investigate military abuses. Paulina, however, suffers from horrific post-traumatic stress disorder, and is not sure she can face the public life that Gerardo's appointment will force upon her. By chance, Gerardo meets Dr. Miranda, who

is impressed with Gerardo's appointment. Gerardo, who believes Paulina to be asleep, invites Dr. Miranda to spend the night and places him in the guest room. But Paulina is awake, and when the light goes out she attacks Dr. Miranda and ties him to a chair, where Gerardo is shocked to find him in the morning. The doctor, she declares, is the man who oversaw her torture: although she never saw him, she has recognized him by his voice. She demands Gerardo help her interrogate Dr. Miranda, and swears that when the truth is known she will let Dr. Miranda go. But will she? DEATH AND THE MAIDEN skillfully balances out characters and plot. Is Paulina insane? Is Dr. Miranda innocent? Or is she correct, and Dr.

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