

(Online library) Pygmalion: A Romance in Five Acts (With Connections)

Pygmalion: A Romance in Five Acts (With Connections)

George Bernard Shaw

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



#2216203 in Books 1998PDF # 1 #File Name: 003053299X146 pages | File size: 24.Mb

George Bernard Shaw : Pygmalion: A Romance in Five Acts (With Connections) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pygmalion: A Romance in Five Acts (With Connections):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reforming the English languageBy John P. Jones IIIbefore it became the worlds language.George Bernard Shaw was an Irish playwright who wrote Pygmalion in 1912. He would win the Nobel Prize in 1925. He was a polemist and a gadfly, challenging much conventional thought. He opposed both organized religion and vaccinations. More people are familiar with this play thanks to the musical My Fair Lady which is largely based upon its central themes, though the rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain is never in the original work.Pygmalion is the first name of Professor Higgins, an insufferable, arrogant academic prig. He has developed quite a skill, which he demonstrates throughout the play: identifying someones place of origin by their accent. He claimed to be able to spot someones birthplace within London to within two miles. As for reforming the English language and many others would no doubt agree, particularly those who have learned it as a second language: he advocated the use of phonetics.The good professor decides to conduct an experiment. During a rainstorm, he meets a Cockney flower girl on the streets. He is so proud of his skills, that he is confident that he can teach her proper English (as well as manners) so that in six months, she can pass herself off as a lady. Lisa Doolittle is the flower girl, and she does want proper diction lessons in order to better herself. But she does have a mind of her own, and shows it, objecting to the callus way that she is treated, as merely a pawn in Professor Higgins experiment. There are several supporting characters, such as Professor Higgins mother who largely supports Ms. Doolittle in the conflicts. Meanwhile, her dad, a dustman, sees direct monetary gain in this experiment, not in improving his daughters social

status, but in hitting the Professor up for a fiver. The play is left open-ended. In fact, Shaw devotes the last 10% of the work to speculating on the best possible outcomes after the experiment is concluded, including if it would be best for Ms. Doolittle to marry the Professor, purportedly a confirmed bachelor. Shaw notes: When you go to women, says Nietzsche, take your whip with you. Sensible despots have never confined that precaution to women: they have taken their whips with them when they have dealt with men, and been slavishly idealized by the men over whom they have flourished the whip much more than by women. No doubt there are slavish women as well as slavish men; and women, like men, admire those that are stronger than themselves. But to admire a strong person and to live under that strong persons thumb are two different things. Sensible sentiments even, that resonate more than a century later. And I must consider the difficulties of enunciation in another language, and trust I would be able to find a better teacher than the good Professor. 5-stars, for Shaws work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hard to swallow By HHI can't say that I enjoyed these plays very much. I find Ibsen's characters to be unbelievable, especially one of the shining stars of his fame and accomplishments, Nora Helmer of "A Doll's House". I guess what I find most obnoxious about these characters is the speed with which they do things, which could be blamed on the necessity of story and play-writing, or it could be that the characters do not show significant glimmers of what they are to suddenly and so surprisingly become. Nora, for example, is this flitting, domestic plaything (thus the title) for nine-tenths of the play, unable to see her own mistakes and the seriousness of the looming catastrophe ahead. Then, all of a sudden, she is a most advanced, thoughtful, determined individual, come to drastic acts with absolutely no passion and able to express her inmost feelings and will to her husband without missing a beat. Ive been in arguments and they dont go like that. Ibsen said of his own work that his plays only just pose questions; they don't make statements. I myself dont buy Ibsen's assessment for a second. It is historically interesting that he considered his plays questions, but they are very clearly works of value statements and modes for societal change (which is exactly what they became). With lines like If Im ever going to reach any understanding of myself and the things around me, I must learn to stand alone, would you honestly believe his plays are unbiased vignettes, wondering about human nature, and nothing more? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bad formatting for Kindle. By Linda McCombe I gave this one star as the formatting for Kindle was very, very bad. It was all over the pages in boxes, ran off the pages and left blanks in the story. Story is a classic, but this version is awful.

When George Bernard Shaw wrote "Pygmalion" more than a half century ago, it seemed unlikely that his little play would eventually be converted into one of the great musicals of our time, "My Fair Lady," and a motion picture that captured numerous Academy Awards. Yet such popularity should not have been surprising since succeeding generations of readers and playgoers find continual relevance in the story of a speech therapist who successfully converts an untutored flower girl into a darling of high society. The extraordinary wit of the master dramatist of the twentieth century has not lost its sharp edge as it cuts away at the artificiality of class distinctions and the callousness of indifference to human worth.

About the Author George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was one of the most prolific writers of the modern theater. He invented the modern comedy of ideas, expounding on social and political problems with a razor-sharp tongue. He won the 1925 Nobel Prize for literature. Dan H. Laurence edited Shaw's Collected Letters, his Collected Plays with Their Prefaces, Shaw's Music, and (with Daniel Leary) The Complete Prefaces. He is series editor for the works of Shaw in Penguin. Nicholas Grene is professor of English literature at Trinity College, Dublin.