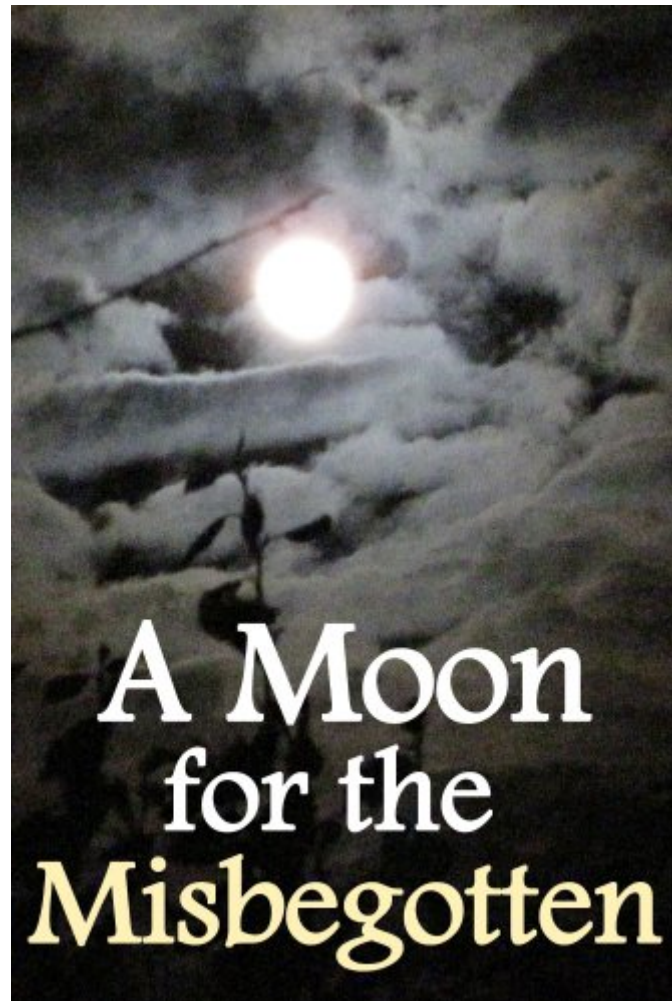




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# A Moon For The Misbegotten



## Synopsis

Eugene O'Neill's last completed play, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* is a sequel to his autobiographical *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Moon picks up eleven years after the events described in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, as Jim Tyrone (based on O'Neill's older brother Jamie) grasps at a last chance at love under the full moonlight. This paperback edition features an insightful introduction by Stephen A. Black, helpful to anyone who desires a deeper understanding of O'Neill's work.

## Book Information

File Size: 316 KB

Print Length: 144 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: December 2, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AOAJOEY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #269,380 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Theater > Broadway & Musicals #191

in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Broadway & Musicals #26774

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

"A Moon for the Misbegotten" is an excellent drama written by a master playwright. However, it might be helpful to people reading a review to note that any play you read in book form is very different than the experience of seeing the play enacted. Actors bring a tremendous energy to the roles they play, and this energy is a large part of what people experience when they go to a theater or see a movie. Reading the words that the actors use is a very different experience. This is not to say that the experience of reading a play is of low value; reading a screenplay or script can add

tremendously to the enjoyment of a piece. But no one should expect a quiet read under your favorite lamp with a cup of tea by your elbow to be anything like watching a play performed by good actors. That being said, I highly recommend this book as a companion to any filmed or live production of the play. While reading, someone might wonder, "Why does this sound so ... stilted (or weird, or unnatural)? Why does it seem so different from the production I saw (in high school, on TV, at the theater, etc.)?" The answer is important to understand: you're reading a kind of road map that leads to drama, emotion, and insight. The map is not the journey, but it certainly helps the journey. My only "criticism" of the play is the title, which I find a little too vague for the flesh-and-blood setting of the drama. The thoughts, intentions, dialog, and actions one encounters in "Moon for the Misbegotten" are gritty, more of a roadhouse than a lecture hall or a poetry convention! Alliteration is nice, but if it obscures the story even one bit, it only serves itself and perhaps makes the writer seem clever, not brilliant.

O'Neill creates multidimensional characters and reveals poignantly their humanity. His characters have humor which allows the reader to laugh a lot on the first act. Later, O'Neill exposes their inner emotional life to the core. We see Joise's deep love and compassion for the man she loves, a man who is unable to love. We experience through O'Neill's writing Joise's unconditional acceptance of her friend and the friend's sad unstable existence.

A few weeks ago I eagerly ordered this play for I had plans to see Gabriel Byrne's performance as James Tyrone, Jr. in the current Broadway run of "A Moon for the Misbegotten." I very much enjoyed reading the book. I saw the play this weekend and was incredibly moved with how the actors brought this tale to life. Gabriel Byrne's performance was particularly awesome. For those who are familiar with "A Long Day's Journey Into Night," this play follows up on the life of the eldest son/actor. I read somewhere that this was O'Neill eulogy to his real-life brother, who was the model for James Tyrone, Jr. The play is about relationships, redemption, unconditional love, regrets, and hope. In a nutshell, the story is ecumenical. Other elements of the story that contributes to its overall tapestry is the sexual current between James and Josie, the story's heroine, and O'Neill's ability to balance much needed humor with pathos. And for those who are interested in an introduction to O'Neill but are short on time, this particular play is a fast read.

Unable to see this play locally, I decided to get a copy and read it. I am glad I did. Despite being a man, I really reacted to the tenderness and passion between Josie and Tyrone. This work was

elegantly written. Something resonated deep inside me. Read it; you'll like it.

This play doesn't get produced very often and lies in the shadow of Long Day's Journey. But it is wrenching and poignant, with beautifully crafted characters and dialogue. A stunning play.

Eugene O'Neill remains one of our greatest writers. The play seems a bit dated though the main theme remains universal.

Excellent. Must read after A Long Day's Journey.

This is a required class book. It was downloaded to my kindle saving space and weight. It is easy to navigate and has a feature to enlarge the print.

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