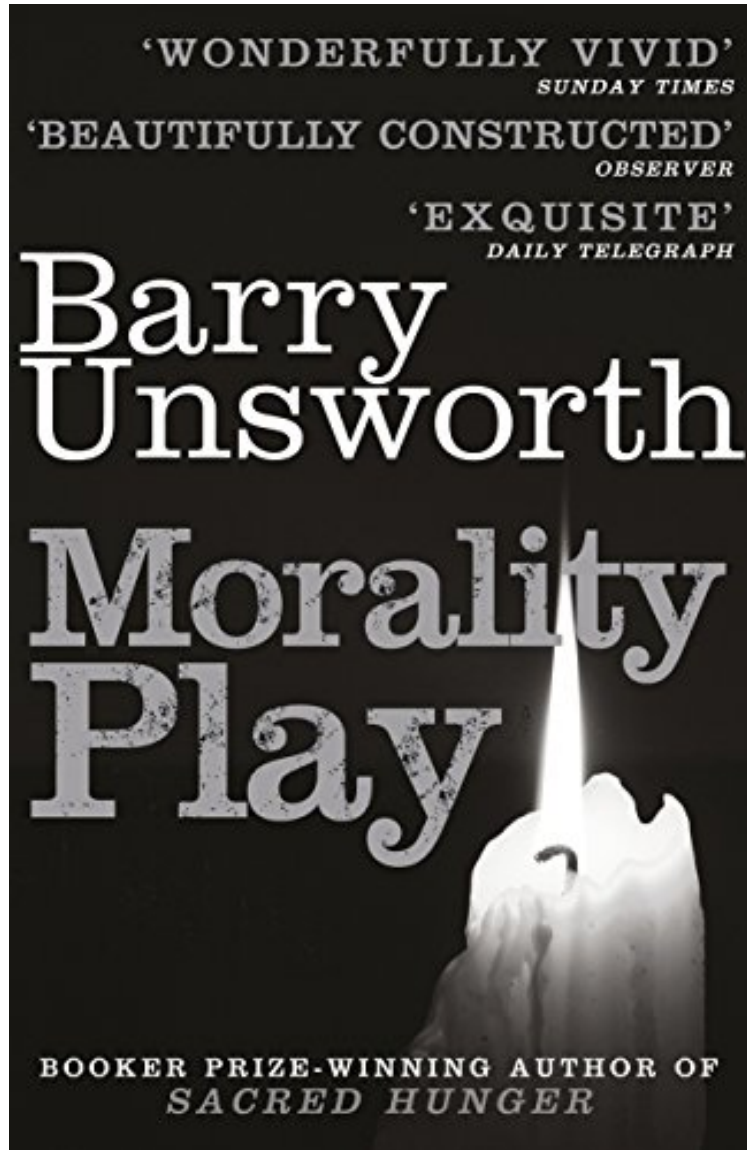


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Morality Play

Von Barry Unsworth

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Von Barry Unsworth : Morality Play before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Morality Play:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. historically fascinating, captivantly writtenVon Ein KundeBarry Unsworth takes the reader back to 14th century England and to a group of actors, playing for their lives.When they are confronted with an unsolved murder mystery, the group of actors plays the murder and comes precariously close to finding the truth. Will they keep on playing and

risk their lives or will their quest for the truth end?The interaction between the actors parallels the interaction between the characters they play, giving the novel a deeper sense.On a historical note: Unsworth's novel portrays a time in literary history, when the medieval morality play was slowly merging into drama as we know it today, drama portraying real life. This, too, is vital to the group of actors - the question whether or not they should enact true situations and real people.Definitely worth reading!1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. adequate mystery; great proseVon Ein KundeI found this novel to be very good in some respects and just adequate in others. the mystery aspect was okay, not very thrilling or suspenseful, and at times predictable. the resolution of the murder (i wont tell you what it is) was different from what i had originally deduced, and that did surprise me a little, but nothing incredible. note, before one takes my word to heart it is important that you know that i am not a huge mystery fan, and so maybe that one nugget of my personality may have proven bias. the part of the novel that i found particularly entertaining was the depiction of the fourteenth century, the lifestyle in it, and especially the prose of the narrator. the way the narrator told the story was in excellent portrayal of medieval prose and made the story very believable to the point where i turned to a history book inquisitive as to the story's truth. this, coupled with the author's incredible description of fourteenth century surroundings, makes one sincerely consider the novel as a primary source. the author goes to great lengths to depict the time accurately both in speech and events, producing what i found to be a very good history. to anyone who reads this review and in turn expects some literary sensation, let it be said that i read this book for my 14th century history class, and so i had some knowledge of the subject, a natural liking of it which the reader may not share. reading the author's credits, one can see that he does too and so it would be helpful if the reader were also familiar, but if not than read it as a good mystery, if that's your genre. if not, than buy jewel's poetry book.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting!Von CarmenI had to read the book in context to my studies for university and in context to the field of historiographic metafiction. I really enjoyed it for its interesting way of dealing with history, the question of truth, reality and how fiction turns into reality. Although situated in the 14th century, its themes and arising questions are up to date when you transform them to our times and the new media.

KurzbeschreibungIt is the late fourteenth century, a dangerous time beset by war and plague. Nicholas Barber, a young and wayward cleric, stumbles across a group of travelling players and compounds his sins by joining them.Yet the town where they perform reveals another drama: a young woman is to be hanged for the murder of a twelve-year-old boy. What better way to increase their takings than to make a new play, to enact the murder of Thomas Wells? But as the actors rehearse, they discover that the truth about the boy's death has yet to be revealed...From BooklistLocating his "play" in fourteenth-century England, Unsworth dramatically portrays murder and deceit in this engaging new novel. Nicholas Barber, a 23-year-old monk, having broken his chastity vows, flees the wrath of his bishop and fellow monks. On the road, he accidentally witnesses the death of a traveling player and his subsequent mourning by fellow troupe members. Barber is discovered spying but is eventually initiated into the troupe, becoming a player himself. The troupe performs its standard morality play in a small town that winter before hearing of a young boy's murder and a deaf-mute girl's imprisonment for the crime. Attempting to portray the story as a drama for the town's entertainment, the players uncover the true story and find themselves in the middle of a corrupt power-play, and a morally twisted cover-up. Unsworth is quite skillful in revealing, by degrees, possible truths, plausible murderers, and the facts behind the players' drama. He subtly brings to the forefront the issue of an artist's rights and moral concerns in basing his or her art on reality. The novel is original in the way Unsworth depicts both actor's and playwright's sensibility as he unfolds this dark tale, but the popular appeal is in the ways it occasionally mirrors Name of the Rose and Ellis Peter's Brother Cadfael mysteries. Janet St. JohnFrom Library JournalThe author of the Booker Prize-winning Sacred Hunger (LJ 7/92) brings 14th-century England to life in this imaginative medieval mystery, which will inevitably invite comparisons with Umberto Eco's The Name of the Rose (LJ 4/1/83). Its narrator is Nicholas Barber, a young monk who has forsaken his calling and joined an itinerant troupe of players that gets caught up in the real-life drama of a small-town murder. The crime presents Barber and his fellows with an opportunity to attract a larger-than-usual audience, and they turn sleuths, weaving the bits of information yielded by their investigation into an improvised play that eventually reveals the surprising, sordid truth. Rich in historical detail, Unsworth's well-told tale explores some timeless moral dilemmas and reads like a modern page-turner. Recommended for fiction collections.David Sowd, formerly with Stark Cty. District Lib., Canton, OhioCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.