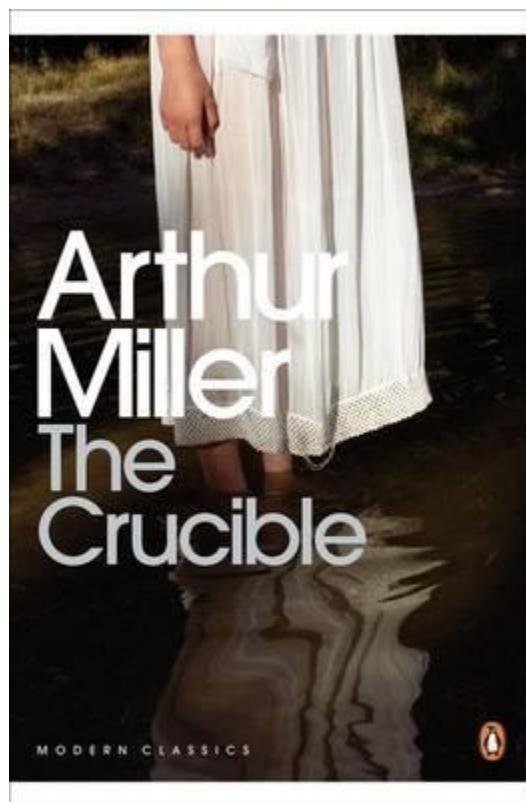


Download The Crucible: A Play in Four Acts [PDF]



Details:

Author: *Arthur Miller*

Format: *144 pages*

Dimensions: *128 x 192mm*

Publication date: *24 Feb 2000*

Publisher: *Penguin Books Ltd*

Imprint: *PENGUIN CLASSICS*

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Plot:

Arthur Miller's classic parable of mass hysteria draws a chilling parallel between the Salem witch-hunt of 1692 - 'one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history' - and the American anti-communist purges led by Senator McCarthy in the 1950s. The story of how the small community of Salem is stirred into madness by superstition, paranoia and malice, culminating in a violent climax, is a savage attack on the evils of mindless persecution and the terrifying power of false accusations. A depiction of innocent men and women destroyed by malicious rumour, *The Crucible* is also a powerful indictment of McCarthyism and the 'frontier mentality' of Cold War America.

Additional Info:

Review Text

This is more than merely the text of the drama now playing on Broadway. The playwright has inserted, as main characters are introduced, brief biographical

bits; he has an introduction on the historical accuracy of the play, and considerable descriptive matter on Salem and the villagers and the customs of the times. All of this adds considerably to the understanding of the play itself-sets the key and the mood. With this additional material the play makes particularly good reading. (Kirkus Reviews)

About Arthur Miller

American dramatist Arthur Miller was born in New York City in 1915. In 1938 Miller won awards for his comedy *The Grass Still Grows*. His major achievement was *Death of a Salesman*, which won the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for drama and the 1949 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. *The Crucible* was aimed at the widespread congressional investigation of subversive activities in the US; the drama won the 1953 Tony Award. Miller's autobiography, *Timebends: A Life* was published in 1987.