



Shaw in an Hour (Playwrights in an Hour)

Emily Esfahani Smith

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The optimistic George Bernard Shaw watched happily as the steely modern world made its debut. Shaw hoped that World War I would sweep away the flawed Victorian world and lead to significant social change and a socialist utopia. When postwar Europe gave way to totalitarianism and a second final war, Shaw's optimism waned. He would later conclude that the twentieth century was a world of great expectations cruelly disappointed. His changing sentiments were most clearly revealed in his plays: *The upbeat Pygmalion* in 1916 led to the despondent *Heartbreak House* in 1919 --- with other didactic dramas coming before, between, and after those two masterpieces.

Setting the playwright in context to his personal life, social, historical and political events, other writers of influence, and more, you will quickly gain a deep understanding of Shaw and the plays he wrote. Read *Shaw in an Hour* and experience his plays like never before. Know the playwright, love the play!

SELLING POINTS The book features:

- Shaw in an Hour, the main essay of the book
- Shaw in a Minute, a snapshot chronology
- A complete listing of Shaw's work
- A list of Shaw's contemporaries in all fields
- Excerpts from Shaw's significant works
- An extensive bibliography grouped according to type of reader
- An index of the main essay.

THE SERIES

***Playwrights in an Hour* is a series devoted to the most produced and studied playwrights in the English language, from the Greek masters to contemporary writers, and written by leading authorities in the field. Each short book places the playwright and his or her work in historical, social, and literary context.**

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