



## **Six Plays of Strindberg: The Father / Miss Julie / The Stronger / Easter / A Dream Play / The Ghost Sonata**

*August Strindberg , Elizabeth Sprigge (Translator)*

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August Strindberg one of the founders of the modern theater, a playwright whom Bernard Shaw considered "the only genuinely Shakespearian modern dramatist" and of whom Sean O'Casey exclaimed, "Strindberg, Strindberg, Strindberg, the greatest of them all."

This collection offers the most famous of his plays. It includes three examples of his naturalism -- The Father, 1887; Miss Julie, 1883; The Stronger, 1890 -- two of his expressionism -- A Dream Play, 1902; The Ghost Sonata, 1907 -- and Easter, a play whose interest derives from Its defying either of these categories.

On these new translations by Elizabeth Sprigge, whose biography of Strindberg is the standard work on that figure, the American reader will have his first opportunity to know the true genius of the great Swedish playwright, for Miss Sprigge's unique achievement has been to render the original texts into an English that is at once fluent and accurate and to provide plays that capture the full vigor and impact of the original.

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## **From Reader Review Six Plays of Strindberg: The Father / Miss Julie / The Stronger / Easter / A Dream Play / The Ghost Sonata for online ebook**

### **John Lucy says**

Other than The Stronger, there's hardly anything very creative here. A one-act play with only two characters, where one sits the entire time and the other speaks the entire time, is quite risky but Strindberg pulls it off. That play is what lifted the average rating to two stars.

The only other play worth reading, I think, is The Father. Yet that play is so sexist, at least from our contemporary perspective, that getting through it all these years after it was written is a tall order. I could accept its quality as a play but the subject and plot is just too ridiculous. Granted, it's not that women can't be selfish imbeciles, but to contrast the mother, the selfish and lower intelligence character, with the father, the great mind and tragic hero character, is indeed sexist--men can be selfish imbeciles, too.

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### **Alli says**

Strindberg is, as always, a classic. I would love to see these plays performed in order to really see the depth of his works.

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### **Ann-Marie says**

I'm very out of touch with theatre, but I enjoyed this collection of Strindberg's plays more than I thought I would. I'm someone who often needs explanatory texts to point out the subtleties and metaphors. There wasn't a great deal of that here, but certainly enough to make me appreciate the work more than I ordinarily would.

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### **Justin K. Rivers says**

Good base collection, I particularly enjoy The Ghost Sonata.

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### **Strawbeary says**

I don't know a whole lot about this man's life but after reading his his plays...I'm thinking he had some "issues..." hehe.

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## Jayan Parameswaran says

The recently concluded Bangalore Theater Festival, staged Strindberg's master piece Miss Julie, performed by an amateur troupe from Delhi. The book was with me for over a month and I thought this was the right time to read Strindberg. Unlike some of the older play you read, what impresses one with these plays are its relevance despite a century passed since they were originally written and staged. This is my first read of Strindberg and I guess, these are the best and essential reading of Strindberg.

Six plays in this collection are written between 1887 and 1907, reflective of his progress as a writer. Though all the plays are good, I was deeply impressed with 'Easter' and 'The Father'. Influences of "Expressionism" and "naturalism" of the 19th century artistic concepts are evident in his plays.

Both 'The Father' and 'Miss Julie' work around the 'battle of sexes' where the feminine gender perceived to be taking upper hand often in the negative shades. Stronger a one-act play is loosely based on his own experience. At the time of writing this play, it was said that he was having an affair with a 17 year old actress, while entertaining another two love relationship. However, his wife seems to have stood by him through out this and at the end of each affair he returned back to her.

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## laura says

man, he's weird.

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## Martha Mega says

Un misógino de mierda bastante talentoso.

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## Sarah says

I hate Strindberg. I hate what he thinks about women. I hate what he thinks about existence. I hate some of his stagecraft.

But I can't deny that these six plays demonstrate a master at work. This guy's stuff is weird. Really weird. And because he lets his demons howl on the page, I can't dismiss him. And because his pain is great, I can't look away or plug my earholes. Some may say no work is worth sticking around for if it's just sloshing out private pain. I say when it's as well put together as Strindberg's, I can't help but keep reading it.

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## Abraham says

Enjoyed all plays. Particularly the father, the stronger and the ghost sonata.

