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A play sparked by the suicide of actor, Kenneth Morgan, with whom Rattigan had been in love.

The Deep Blue Sea Details

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From Reader Review The Deep Blue Sea for online ebook

Jess Edwards says

I won't lie. I read this play mainly due to my obsession with Tom Hiddleston (who plays Freddie Page in the 2011 film adaption). However, I now am absolutely in love with this play. I like it better than the film adaption in fact. I've reread it again and again, and am constantly staggered by the emotional impact Terence Rattigan creates in such a short amount of words, with only dialogue and a one-room stage setting. It's definitely worth a read.

Sarah says

Hester Collyer loves Freddie Page. She loves him so much she left her husband Bill to run away with Freddie to Canada, where he worked as a test pilot. She loves him so much she tries to kill herself when he forgets her birthday. She loves him so much she cannot bear the thought that he does not love her as much as she loves him.

So goes "The Deep Blue Sea." The play starts with Hester's failed suicide attempt, which is discovered by her landlady and another tenant who smell gas. While the premise of the play sounds melodramatic, it never really goes over the line. Rattigan shows a woman who is devastated by her love for this seemingly ordinary man that makes her act in a way she never dreamed of. Here is a great story of how love can make people act irrational and detrimental to their health.

While Freddie Page could seem like a right bastard for not sharing the same amount of love for Hester, he is a sympathetic character, and an honest one at that. I love the line: "We are death for each other." In this case it is literally true, but can also be metaphorically true for a couple holding each other back from achieving goals by a distracting relationship.

I also loved the character of Mr. Miller, who embodied that stranger in a person's life, who, with one small act or word, was destined to change someone else's life for better or worse. Very compelling.

P.S. Winn says

This is actual a play and I think this playwright was not just a troubled individual, but ahead of his time in his thinking. Sadly, the times he lived in didn't recognize his life style, nor his anguish.

Bettie? says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00h3ycm>

Description: *The Deep Blue Sea opens with the failed suicide of Hester Collyer, who has deserted her*

husband for the raffish charms of an ex-fighter pilot. During the play we watch her wrestle with the intensity of her love-and lust-for the younger man, who is having his own problems adjusting to post-war life.

Lenali says

I didn't know who was Rattigan nor had I ever heard about his work before watching the film adaptation of this play ,starring Rachel Weisz (incredible actress!).

I am still blown away by its subtlety and complexity. It is a play where even complexity is repressed, which is just brilliant, and I appreciate that it is neither melodramatic or over-written. I love it because even if the subject has been written about for centuries, it still manages to ring so completely honest and true it makes your stomach tie in knots a little bit.

A beautiful piece of work! The Winslow Boy is next on my reading list.

Simon Gibson says

We finished a read through for this last week and I was legitimately so impressed! The writing is so economic and completely drives the themes forward. It doesn't seem like any of the characters are redundant or any of the exchanges used to fill time - everything allows discussion of a very serious topic in a time where discussion of it would be discouraged. The whole thing is really uplifting by the conclusion as well, that last scene with Miller melts my heart. It's a wonderful read from start to finish.

From the audition process I read snippets, but all of these moments seemed heightened and quite abstract - in the context of the script these moments are totally earned and natural. Rattigan's economy is something I aspire to as a writer.

Sukanya says

Achingly beautiful.

The braveness it takes to ask someone to love one back, even as things rapidly unravel. The humility of putting one's dignity in the hands of the other, hoping against hope that it is returned intact. The braveness in revealing one's vulnerability to the one and only one who can take advantage of it. To be in that unique position to take advantage of and be taken advantage of. To refuse and to be refused. To be broken by love and to be inspired by the one spurned.

Rarely do we come across such wonderful, despairing complexities in a writing as in this one.

It makes one aware of the astonishing simultaneity of human fragilities and strength that we display every now and then in our lives.

And that deep, deep faith we have in our heart's calling.

Catie Middleton says

This is by far one of the most beautiful plays I have ever read. It is such a simply told story, and yet is so dramatic and hits you like a brick. I was breathless by the end of it. The movie was fantastic, and stayed very close to the play, which was a true blessing, because if Terence Davies hadn't I would have had to send a letter. An absolute classic. Loved every second of it.

Lisa says

Terribly depressing (like the film) yet this got me reading more of his work like *Harlequinade* and *The Browning Version*.

Daisy Leather says

Rattigan writes people - real, raw and flawed. He observes and comments on the human condition in such a beautifully tragic way.

Steve Mayer says

As entertaining and moving to read as it was to watch.

Aiswarya says

Miller's final words to Hester are deeply moving. But even his friendship does not save her in the end.

Lauren says

A few months ago, Rachel Weisz was on *The Daily Show* and drama geeked out when talking about her newest movie, an adaptation of this play. As a recovering drama geek, I loved seeing an actress of Ms. Weisz's caliber acting like fifteen-year-old me after I first read David Ives (Seriously, he's brilliant). I'm interested to see the movie now, because, as it is, this is a play that's meant to be performed live, in front of an audience. It's an intimate story that takes place in one day, in one room: it opens with the attempted suicide of Hester Collyer, who left her husband (a wealthy judge) the previous year for an affair with a former RAF pilot. This is a play about consequences and aftermath that leaves plenty of space for actors to bring in their own interpretations of the story and the characters. I can see why Ms. Weisz was so excited. Recommended.

[ETA: The film does not do this play justice and come nowhere close to matching the emotional intimacy of the play. I'm by no means of purist when adapting stories for different mediums, but I found the film insulting to the original since it strips the play of its depth and uses a few of the story's odds and ends to tell

a story the director wanted to tell, which I found quite different than the story Terence Rattigan set down over sixty years ago.]

Laura says

From BBC Radio 3 - Drama on 3:

Terence Rattigan's celebrated 1952 play. It is post-war Britain and Hester Collyer has left her husband, an eminent judge, to be with Freddy, an ex-RAF pilot with no prospects. The passion she feels for this younger man is not returned by him, and the play opens as Hester, in a state of despair, has attempted suicide.

Directed by David Timson

A Ukemi production for BBC Radio 3

First broadcast 01/02/2009.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00h3ycm>

A movie was made based on this book and it's available at YouTube

Amy says

Oh, I so wanted the ending to go the other way, but it couldn't.
