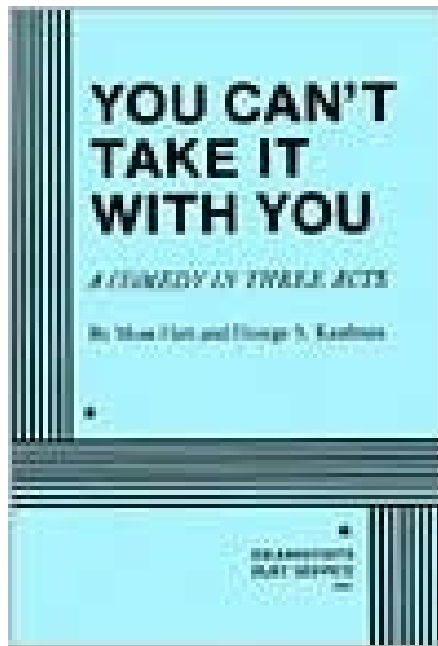




You Can't Take it With You

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At first the Sycamore family seems mad, but it is not long before we realize that if they are mad, the rest of the world is really verklempt.

You Can't Take it With You Details

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From Reader Review You Can't Take it With You for online ebook

Sidik Fofana says

SIX WORD REVIEW: Tony & Alice = Tony & Maria = Romeo & Juliet.

Sketchbook says

World famous title for an item from Mme Tussaud's wax works.

Michael says

This classic play is hysterical and has a timeless message. Sure, some of the references are dated and not PC, but the point is driven home that life isn't about money or possessions. Life is to be enjoyed.

Grantimatter says

This play is begging for new productions. Written in the 1930s, it seems entirely current. War on terror? Recession? Suburban sprawl? Copyright vs. sharing works for free? All in there. Remarkable.

Dosha (Bluestocking7) Beard says

I had so much fun reading this. Even the stage directions had me laughing. What a good time. It was more fun to read than to watch it being performed.

Joe says

Charming and goofy. It is far from a revolutionary play, but I can see why it's one of the most performed productions at the high school level.

Jason says

I started reading this play and thought to myself, "if my family ever acted like this, I'd slap them all and leave as quickly as I could". By the time I got to the end of the play, I felt much better about my own family as well as the family in the play. Some great points are made in this riotous comedy, and ultimately it's very sweet.

Andrea Parker says

Great satirical play!

04evans says

The thing that stuck out to me the most would have to be the character Paul. I like him because his profession is making fireworks. Since I was a little kid being a pyrotechnician has been my dream career. Another thing that was good about this play was it wasn't very long. Since I didn't really enjoy the play it was nice that it was only like 70 pages.

The worst thing about the play to me was the fact that it was old. It was written in the 1930s. It was supposed to be a comedy but I didn't really find anything funny or I just didn't get the old humor. The people in the 30s are like my grandmas age and we don't think the same things are funny, nor do we understand each other's humor.

I don't ever plan on reading another one of their plays. I didn't chose to read it this time but we had to. I guess if I was forced to read another one for class it wouldn't be as bad and it might be easier because I would know what to expect. A person who enjoys plays might like it, but I'm not a big fan of plays so that didn't help.

This play made me feel annoyed well more like bored. I just wanted to get it read so I could start on the project and write this paper. I would give it one star out of five. I give it that because it wasn't my type of book. Since it wasn't something I am interested in it was hard for me to get into it and enjoy it. After reading the play I didn't really take anything away from it.

Carol says

George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's Depression-era feel-good -- light hearted, Pulitzer Prize winner is as resonant today as it was when it debuted in 1936.

Set in the large home of the Sycamore family, the story depicts the lightweight travels of a group of eccentrics living with little means of support. The family patriarch, "Grandpa" Martin Vanderhof hasn't worked in 35 years, having quit one day when he grasped the fact that work was interfering with his fun, an attitude that extends to shrugging off repeated attempts by the IRS to collect back taxes.

Grandpa's daughter Penelope Sycamore dabbles with play-writing and painting without achieving much in either arena; her husband, Paul builds models with Erector Sets and assembles unlicensed fireworks in the basement with his assistant Mr. DePinna. The Sycamores' married daughter Essie is an aspiring but incompetent dancer coached by a blustery Russian instructor named Kolenkhov; Essie and her young husband, Ed also live in the house. When Ed's not running his amateur printing press, he's knocking out pop tunes on the xylophone. Alice, the seemingly responsible daughter, loses plenty of sleep over her growing

affection for the boss's son, Tony Kirby, a smart young man of a Wall Street family. There's almost no evidence that anyone in the household actually earns a living, but somehow they manage to sustain a relatively good lifestyle, even supporting a kitchen maid named Rheba and her handyman boyfriend Donald.

The premise, makes plenty of escapist sense in a high-unemployment economy — no one really needs money to live; all that's really needed is for a bunch of lovable loonies to jump in a boat together and row, even if, especially if, they're all pulling in different directions. The broke-but-happy Sycamore clan is in contrast to the wealthy, uptight Kirbys (Tony's workaholic investment-banker father and spiritualist/socialite mother), when the inevitable get-acquainted dinner goes dreadfully awry. It's a disaster, capped with the arrest of everyone in the household.

The third act reveals Kirby attitude softening toward the zany Sycamore clan. Kirby Sr., is a ruthless, grasping tycoon, eager to buy up every house on the Sycamores' block to make room for a munitions plant. When his son Tony tells his father that he resigns and no longer wants this lifestyle. After his son leaves, his father is shocked, and devastated by his son's decision. Kirby compares his life to the life of the Sycamores. He decides to not fulfill the takeover of the Sycamore home and visits "Grandpa" Martin Vanderhof where he realizes what's most important in life. The end of the story is of Kirby's regeneration at the hands of the carefree Sycamores.

Jeannine says

Finally!

Teri-K says

Funny and endearing.

Jessie says

I'd like to see a staged production of this. Reading it was alright but I definitely think this is a show that needs to be experienced live in order to truly be entertained by it.

Diane Malone says

A modern classic that is as timely today as it was when written (first produced in 1936).

A crazy but lovable family that everyone can recognize; everyone has a crazy Uncle Louie or eccentric Aunt Fanny. The family home is also occupied by various friends, neighbors, suitors, servants, guests and finally G-men! There's Social Security fraud, a Russian threat, and Federal Government surveillance -- right out of 2017 headlines!

Kaufman and Hart were brilliant comedic writers, and this play holds up beautifully even after 80 years. It is regularly the most produced play in American high schools, and is also performed around the world.

Go see a local performance; you won't be sorry!

Nicholas Whyte says

<https://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2951226.html>

The drunk actress Gay Wellington (and another comic turn, the Grand Duchess Olga) were among the cuts made by Riskin as he adapted the play for the screen. Kirby's background is much less developed in the play - the whole subplot involving property transactions, and the character of Mr Poppins, are inserted by Riskin into the film. The Vanderhofs have pet snakes rather than a raven. (Though I'm glad to say that the kitten is original.)

The guts of it are all the same as the film, and one can see why the play won a Pulitzer as an uplifting tonic in depressing times. It's a bit more misogynistic (as I said, two extra female characters who are only there as figures of fun, and Mrs Kirby gets a harder time) and more racist (Donald gets treated worse). There is a hilarious sequence during the Kirbys' disastrous visit to the Vanderhof household, where Penny gets the Kirbys to play a word association game:

[start]

KIRBY. Will you go on, Mrs. Sycamore? What was the next word?

PENNY. (Reluctantly.) Honeymoon.

KIRBY. Oh, yes. And what was Mrs. Kirby's answer ?

PENNY. Ah—"Honeymoon—dull."

KIRBY. (Murderously calm.) Did you say—dull?

MRS. KIRBY. What I meant, Anthony, was that Hot Springs was not very gay that season. All those old people sitting on the porch all afternoon, and—nothing to do at night. (Realizes she has gone too far.)

KIRBY. That was not your reaction at the time, as I recall it.

TONY. (Crosses in a step.) Father, this is only a game.

KIRBY. A very illuminating game. Go on, Mrs. Sycamore!

PENNY. (Brightly, having taken a look ahead.) This one's all right, Mr. Kirby. "Sex—Wall Street."

KIRBY. Wall Street? What do you mean by that, Miriam?

MRS. KIRBY. (Nervously.) I don't know what I meant, Anthony. Nothing.

KIRBY. But you must have meant something, Miriam, or you wouldn't have put it down.

MRS. KIRBY. It was just the first thing that came into my head, that's all.

KIRBY. But what does it mean ? Sex—Wall Street.

MRS. KIRBY. (Annoyed.) Oh, I don't know what it means, Anthony. It's just that you're always talking about Wall Street, even when (She catches herself.) I don't know what I meant... Would you mind terribly, Alice, if we didn't stay for dinner? (Rises. GRANDPA and KOLENKHOF rise. Also ESSIE, ED and PAUL.) I'm afraid this game has given me a headache.

[end]

I can see how what plays well on Broadway might not always survive to Hollywood.

Molly says

Saw this play in February starring Fran Kranz and James Earl Jones among others. One of the funniest things

I've ever seen. Now I'm auditioning for it at my theater. So, I decided to read it. Brought back all the laughs. A hilarious time with wonderful characters and great heart.

Chase Hall says

A cute and heartfelt play that made me yearn for another crazy family gathering and maybe for a few weeks to spend in the 30's.

Marc says

Zany character-driven comedy. Great Capra movie based on it.

Sierra Sanchez says

My school put on this play for Fall show. Its a great comedy with wonderful characters. I found that most of the characters in the play resembled my own family members, but then again, the bonds between the family members in You Can't Take It With You are ones that (one would hope) are shared between family members today. You Can't Take It With You- what a charming little play!

Basia Korzeniowska says

Great play, some wonderful ideas, all heightened by some very politically incorrect stage directions!
