

The Best American Short Plays 1994-1995: A Review of Ten Exceptional One-Acts

Edited by the esteemed theater critic John Guare, 'The Best American Short Plays 1994-1995' is an indispensable anthology that presents a captivating collection of ten one-act plays, each a testament to the vibrant and ever-evolving landscape of American theater.



The Best American Short Plays 1994-1995 by Melanie Wylutzki

 5 out of 5

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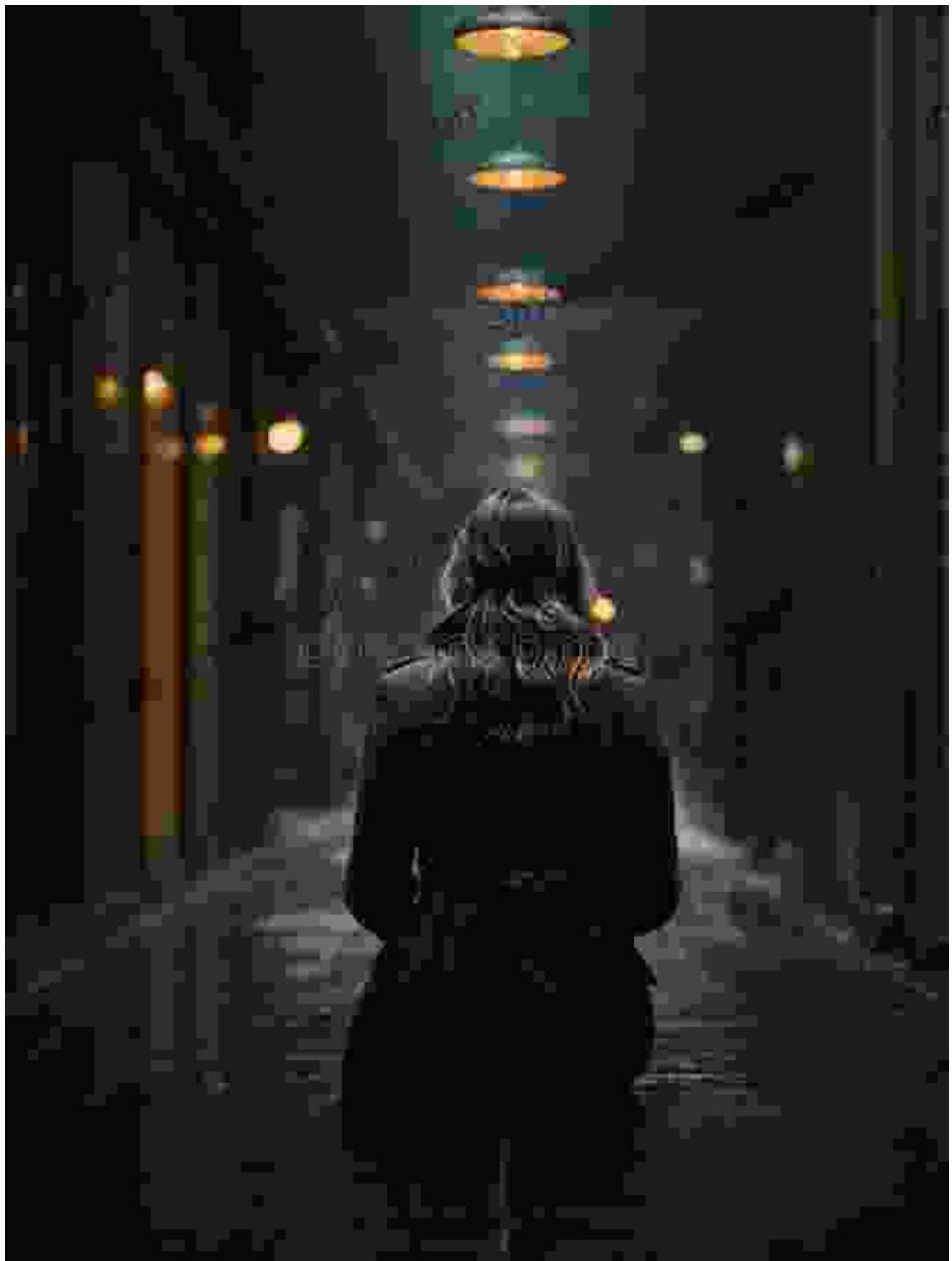
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Spanning a wide range of styles, themes, and perspectives, these plays offer a glimpse into the complexities of human existence, exploring the depths of love, loss, identity, and the myriad challenges we face in the modern world.

1. "Nocturne" by Adam Rapp



Adam Rapp's "Nocturne" opens the anthology with a haunting and evocative tale of a young woman grappling with loneliness, loss, and the complexities of human connection. Through lyrical prose and intimate dialogue, Rapp delves into the protagonist's fragile psyche, capturing the raw emotions and existential questions that torment her.

2. "Aunt Dan and Lemon" by Wallace Shawn



In Wallace Shawn's absurdist comedy "Aunt Dan and Lemon," two elderly sisters engage in a witty and unconventional conversation that challenges conventional notions of aging, memory, and the purpose of life. Shawn's sharp dialogue and unconventional characters create a unique and thought-provoking theatrical experience.

3. "The American Plan" by Richard Greenberg



Set in a Catskills resort during the waning days of World War II, Richard Greenberg's "The American Plan" explores the lives of several interconnected characters as they grapple with love, loss, and the uncertainties of the future. Greenberg's nuanced writing and well-developed characters create a poignant and emotionally resonant drama.

4. "Corner" by Marilyn Suzanne Miller



Marilyn Suzanne Miller's "Corner" offers a raw and unflinching portrait of a homeless woman struggling to survive on the unforgiving streets of New York City. With gritty realism and compassionate storytelling, Miller sheds light on the plight of the marginalized and forgotten in our society.

5. "Cuba and His Teddy Bear" by Reinaldo Povod



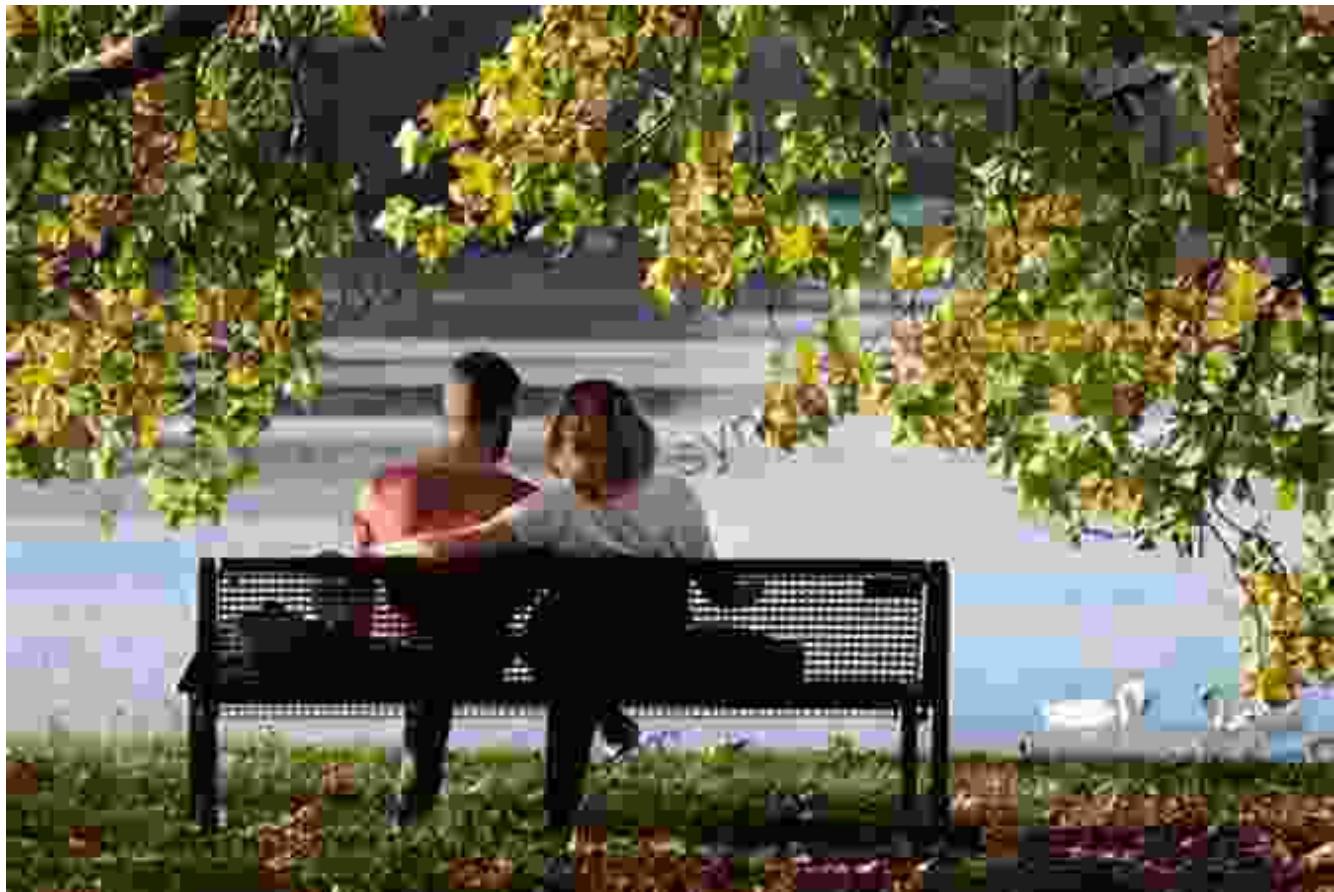
Reinaldo Povod's "Cuba and His Teddy Bear" follows the journey of a Cuban boy who immigrates to the United States, bringing only his most cherished possession - his teddy bear. Through the eyes of Cuba, Povod examines the complexities of cultural identity, displacement, and the enduring power of childhood innocence.

6. "The Losers' Club" by Jonathan Marc Sherman



Jonathan Marc Sherman's "The Losers' Club" paints a heartwarming and humorous portrait of a group of outcast children who find solace and belonging in their shared experiences. Sherman's dialogue is both witty and poignant, capturing the resilience and vulnerability of his young characters.

7. "Morning Star" by Amy Freed



Amy Freed's "Morning Star" explores the complexities of intergenerational relationships and the power of storytelling to bridge the gaps between past and present. Through the poignant interactions of two women from different generations, Freed examines the themes of loss, memory, and the enduring bonds that connect us.

8. "Roland" by Theresa Rebeck



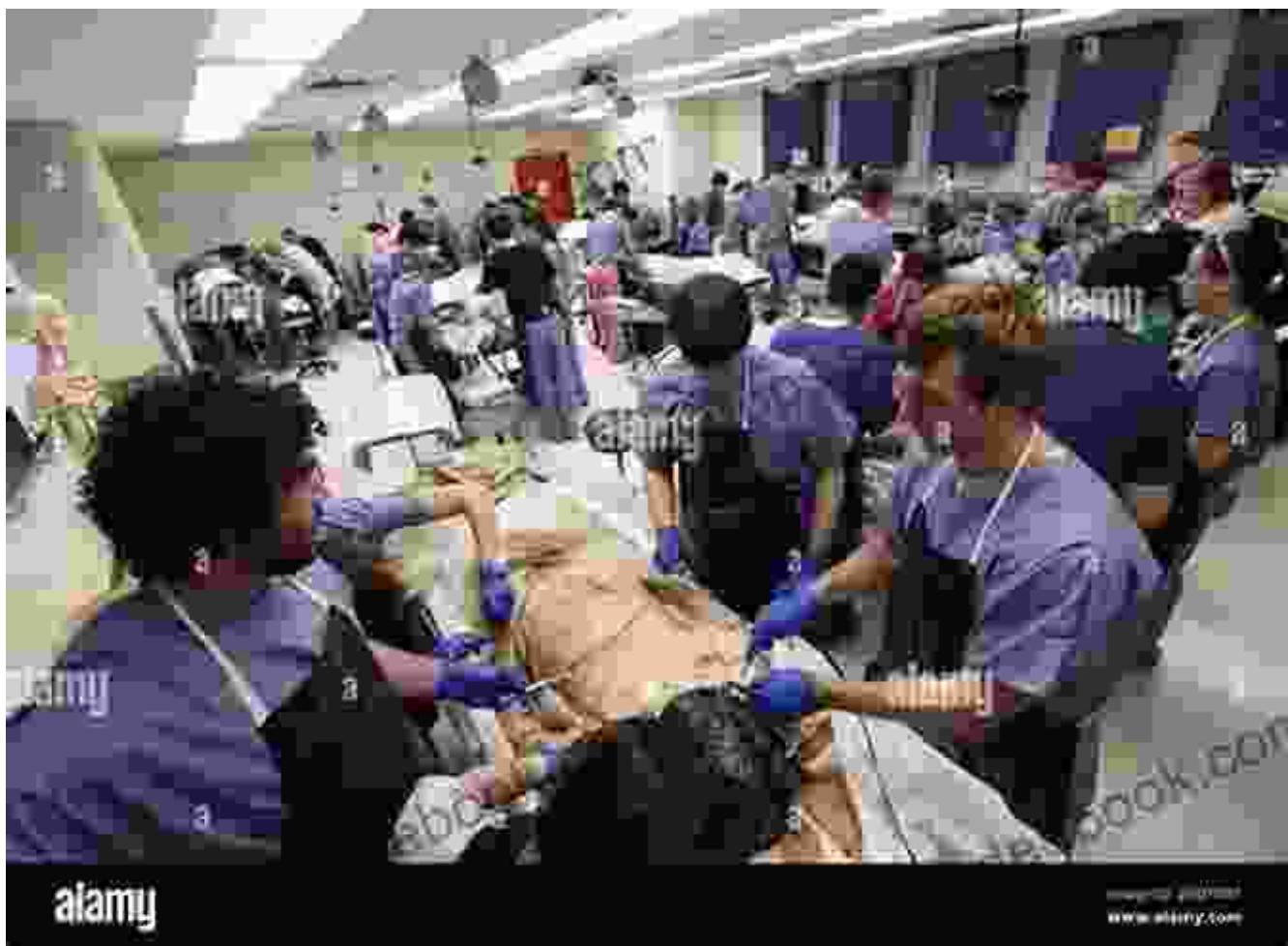
Theresa Rebeck's "Roland" offers an intimate and unflinching look at a young man's struggle with mental illness, addiction, and the search for redemption. Rebeck's writing is both raw and empathetic, creating a powerful and emotionally charged theatrical experience.

9. "Sushi" by John Patrick Shanley



John Patrick Shanley's "Sushi" is a short but potent comedic drama that examines the power dynamics and unspoken tensions within a couple's relationship. Through sharp dialogue and subtle gestures, Shanley exposes the vulnerabilities and hidden longings beneath the surface of domestic life.

10. "Vivisection" by Donald Margulies



Donald Margulies' "Vivisection" concludes the anthology with a thought-provoking and unsettling exploration of the boundaries between life and death, science and humanity. Through the

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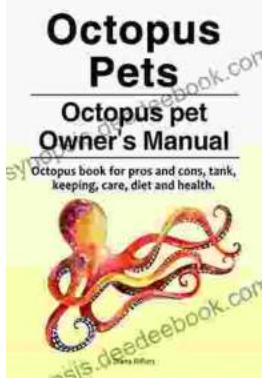
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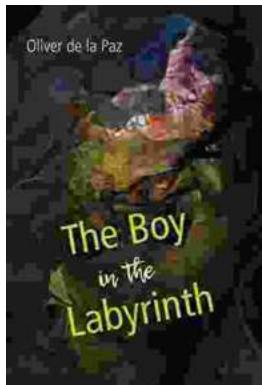
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