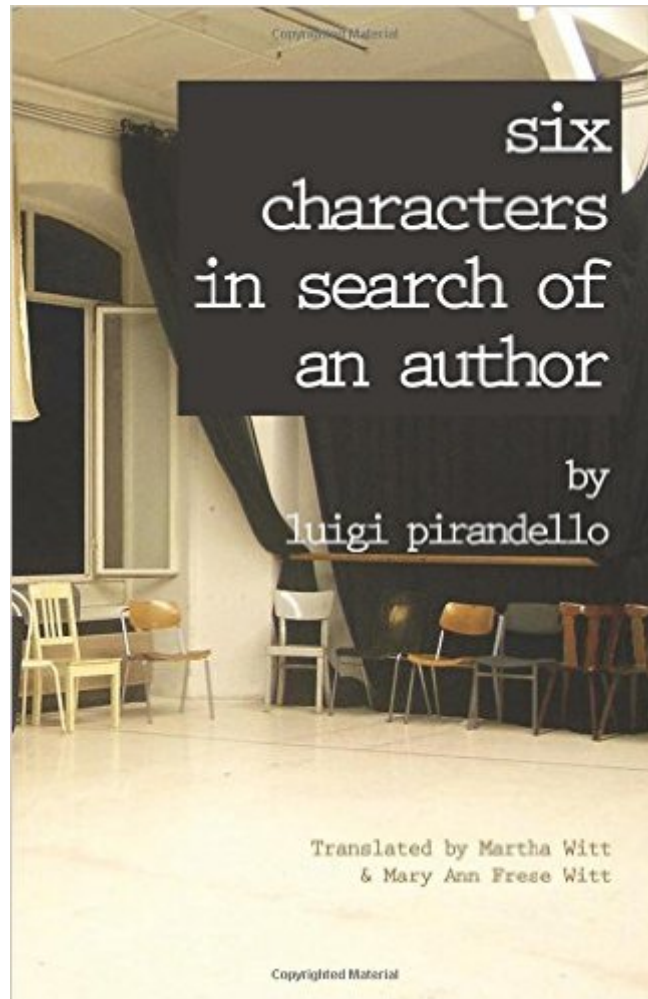# Six Characters In Search Of An Author (Renaissance & Modern Plays)

Synopsis

Presented here for the first time together, and many for the first time in English, are the writings that formed the genesis of "Six Characters in Search of an Author," along with a new translation of the theater masterpiece itself by Martha Witt and Mary Ann Frese Witt. Although Pirandelloâ ™s best-known play is now considered a revolutionary modernist work, it did not begin as avant-garde art, but rather in the musings of a relatively unknown Sicilian living in Rome. The writings included in this volume display its genesis. The idea of characters as living beings in dialogue with their author first appears as a major theme in a short story titled â œCharacters,â • published in 1906. Pirandello did not include it in any of his collections of short stories, and it has not previously been translated into English. The interaction between characters demanding to â œliveâ • in writing and an author who rejects them would be developed in Pirandelloâ ™s 1911 story â œThe Tragedy of a Character.â • In 1925, Pirandello conceived the idea of writing a novel about an author who rejects the characters who come to him begging to be put into a novel, and in a July 1917 letter to his son, he gives the novel a title: "Sei personaggi in cerca dâ ™autore: Romanzo da fare" ("Six Characters in Search of an Author: A Novel to Be Made"). In this volume Martha Witt and Mary Ann Frese Witt provide all these materials for a complete appreciation of this masterwork. â œWonderfully fresh and readable, consistent as well as fluid, sensitive to the flows of the original language and yet smooth and precise, this new translation succeeds in bringing Pirandelloâ ™s masterpiece to life once again. The introduction brilliantly captures the playwrightâ ™s sense of humanityâ ™s unshakeable decency and moral dilemmas; the addition of a previously untranslated short story, â œCharacters,â • enlightens the play. English-speaking readers can now appreciate to the fullest the creative energy of a twentieth-century literary genius.â • â " Valeria Finucci, Professor of Italian & Theater Studies, Duke University

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A richly absurd and emotionally effective translation of Pirandello's intellectual play. The play begins with an acting company rehearsing a play by Pirandello. Then the acting company is interrupted by six characters who are in search of an author to put into words their tragic story. The play deals with such philosophical issues of reality vs. subjectivity and an author's choices in writing but this translation keeps these issues lively and entertaining.

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