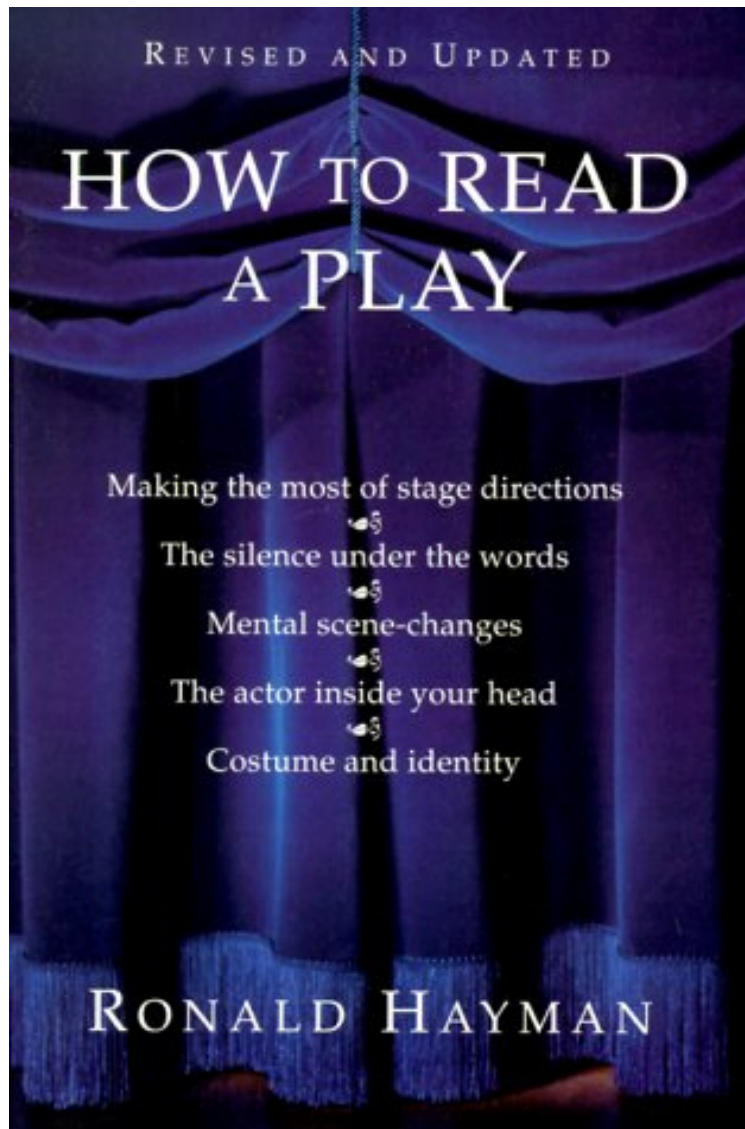


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## How to Read a Play

*Ronald Hayman*

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**Ronald Hayman : How to Read a Play** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Read a Play:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Help! I'm Not in Theater! By Shena Matter The appealing attribute of this book is that it has taught me to understand how to read a play in terms that I can understand. Unbeknownst to me there is an enormous difference between reading a play and watching a play. After reading the book, I have begun to learn and understand how to use my imagination when reading a screenplay or a play. My imagination has been utterly desensitized by television and movies. There are so many factors in reading a play that I didn't even realize there are.

The book is helping me to visualize the action and characters in my mind. This book specifically teaches the importance of space, sound, costumes, characters, and so much more. There are a multitude of segments from well known plays used as references for each specific chapter and lesson to be learned. As a novice, the book itself is easy to read and easy to understand. You don't have to be a theatrical student to understand the book and the principles being taught. I would encourage you to purchase *How to Read a Play* if you are in necessity of this skill. I trust you will benefit from the breakdown of methods used to write, read and present a play. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Much Needed and Easy Reading By Meloy W When I first got this book I thought it was going to be a very boring book. I was pleased to find that it was actually very enjoyable. It definitely helped me understand how to read all of the plays that I was required to read for my present class. I have never read a play until taking this class, and without having read this book prior I would not have understood half of what I was reading. It helps you understand the need for pauses within the reading and the play itself. The book provides more insight on stage direction, the impact of a sound effects and the impact of silence. You see how the writer uses the unspoken language of body language through his writing and see how it affects the characters. Without this book I would have gotten by with reading the plays, but this book gave me a better understanding of all the different effects of a play and how all of those effects tie into each other. I usually trade-in all of my books after my class is completed and say good riddance. I believe I will keep this book in order to use it as a reference for future classes or for when I retire and have time to sit, relax, and enjoy some light reading. I think I have given you a good description of the book and its purpose. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nope. By Tony I despised this book. It's so dry you can barely read a paragraph without needing an adderall to keep focus.

*How to Read a Play* is an introductory guide to the art of translating the printed page of a play or screenplay into dramatic mental images; it has been a classic among actors, directors, and writers for the past twenty years. Now fully updated and revised, the book devotes a chapter exclusively to screenplays, noting the intrinsic differences between a screenplay and a playscript and thus bringing this invaluable classic up to date.