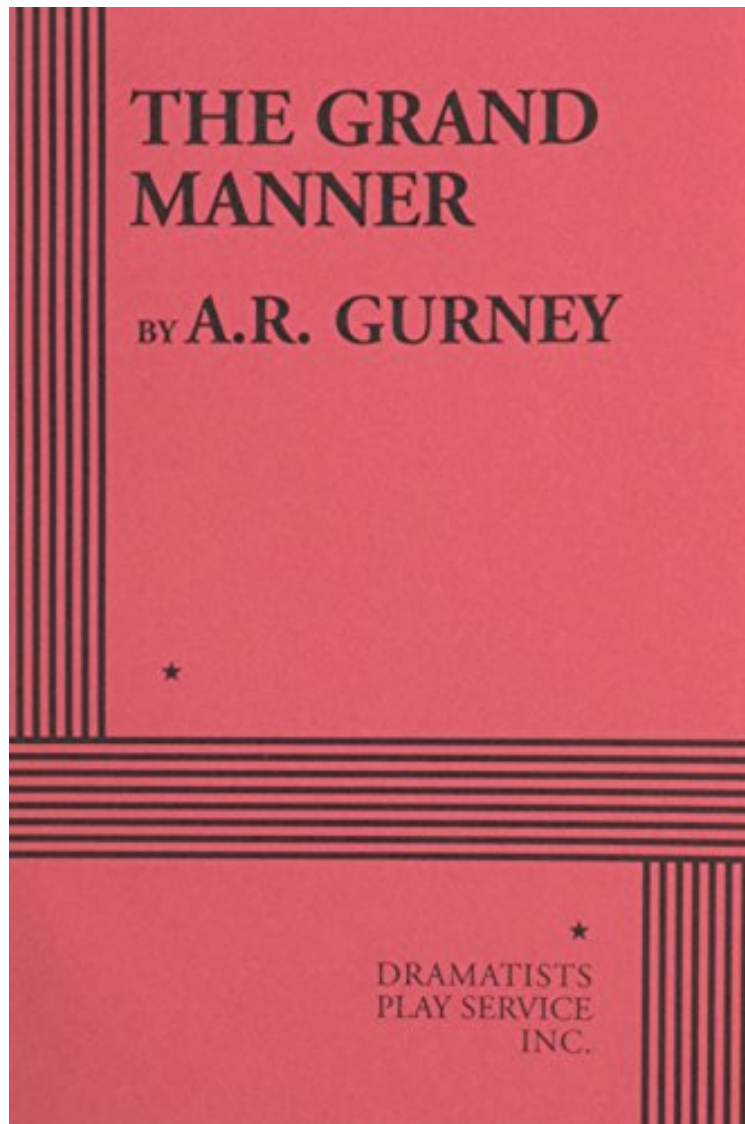


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The Grand Manner - Acting Edition

A.R. Gurney

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THE GRAND MANNER starts out heavy on the charm, but Mr Gurney pulls a switch on you, and all at once you realize that you're seeing an unexpectedly tough-minded portrait of an exceedingly complicated marriage.... Rarely have I encountered so subtle a fictional account of what we now call a 'lavender marriage', or one that does a better job of explaining the strength of the ties that bind companions like [Katherine] Cornell and [Guthrie] McClintic... I expect that THE GRAND MANNER is going to have a long afterlife in regional revival, for artistic directors will surely jump at the chance to mount a four-character, one-set play that is both well made and emotionally rich --Terry Teachout, The Wall Street Journal
THE GRAND MANNER, inspired by a 1948 real-life backstage meeting between an 18-year old A R Gurney and theater star Katharine Cornell after a Broadway performance of Shakespeare's ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA, finds the playwright in a gentle, ruminative mood. ...engaging characters and wise observations married with pure, old-fashioned charm. ...a good deal to savor in this literate, civilized and mature work. --Eric Haagensen, Backstage