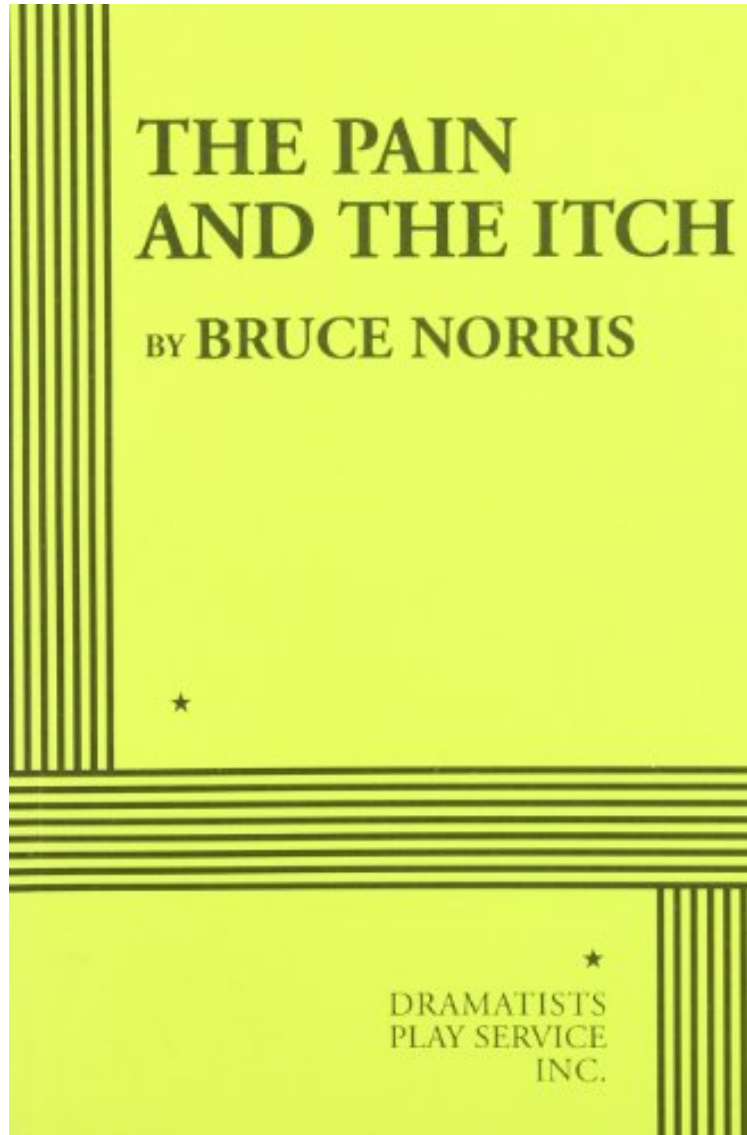


(Download ebook) The Pain and the Itch - Acting Edition

The Pain and the Itch - Acting Edition

Bruce Norris

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Bruce Norris : The Pain and the Itch - Acting Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pain and the Itch - Acting Edition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An excellent playBy GHI bought this because I had just seem Bruce Norris' terrific play "A Parallelogram" at Steppenwolf Theater, with which Norris is associated. This play is also excellent. It is a dysfunctional family comedy-drama, with sharp writing, overlapping dialogue and clever distortion of time. Norris has been compared to Albee, but I was thinking also of comparison with Christopher Durang, though

Norris is less zany and a bit political. This play is great fun to read and would be worth considerable effort to see performed.

In this brief but staggering two-act, playwright Norris demonstrates his skill at drawing out the dark truth that lurks beneath the surface of the perfect family. His crackling satire takes dead aim at the self-satisfied, left-leaning American upper-middle class and its many self-delusions. On a winter afternoon, Kelly and Clayan attractive, prosperous, seemingly happy couple with a four-year-old daughter and a newborn baby must explain to a visitor the events of the previous Thanksgiving, on which, so it seems, someone or something had been gnawing at the avocados on their kitchen table. In the course of this holiday gathering attended by Clays mother, a well-meaning but clueless first-grade teacher who spouts pointless liberal bromides; his brother, a plastic surgeon with a nihilistic streak and a taste for martinis; and his brother's girlfriend, a sexy Balkan immigrant with a love for all things American (racism included) the recent past is unearthed along with revelations of failed marriages, fraternal hatred, infidelity and venereal disease, in the form of their daughters nasty genital infection. And its a comedy. As the story is gradually unfolded to their visitor, a Muslim cab driver, his relationship to the events becomes increasingly clear, as does the emptiness of the familys supposed benevolence and sensitivity. With its crashing emotion and cutting humor, this vicious dissection of the comfortable progressive life lays bare the lies that people use to feel righteous even as they veer off a genuinely ethical path.

About the Author Bruce Norris is the author of several plays, including *The Infidel*, *Purple Heart*, *The Unmentionables*, and *We All Went Down to Amsterdam*, all of which have been produced by the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. *The Infidel* and *Purple Heart* were published together in 2005 by Northwestern University Press. Norris lives in Brooklyn.