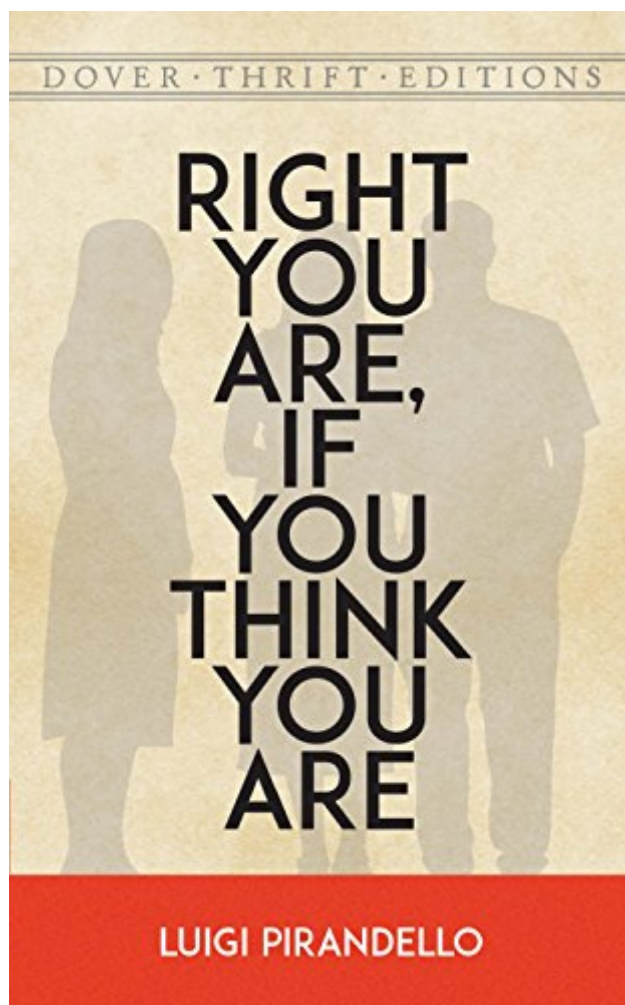


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Right You Are, If You Think You Are (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1934, Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello (1867–1936) explored such themes as the relativity of truth, the vanity and necessity of illusion, and the instability of human personality. In this famous play, an expressionistic parable set in a small Italian town in the early twentieth century, Pirandello skillfully dramatizes these issues. The observer Laudisi derides the townspeople for their insistence on knowing the secrets of Mrs. Frola and her married daughter: Why does Mrs. Frola live alone and not with her daughter? Why do the two never visit each other? The answers to these questions lie at the heart of this play and at the center of Pirandello's artistic vision. Presented in an excellent new English translation, this inexpensive edition will delight students and lovers of modern drama.

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Customer Reviews

This is a great Italian play. Written by Luigi Pirandello, Nobel prize in Literature in 1934. Although the play has been written in 1918 it is a deep psychoanalytical play that could have been written today. It

is the story of three people (Mr. Ponza, Ms. Ponza, Ms. Frola) that move to a new town because their previous town has been destroyed by an earthquake. Town people become suspicious because Ms. Ponza never leaves her home. So they start asking around. Mr. Ponza says: Ms. Ponza never leaves her room of her own volition. She is putting up a scene for the benefit of Ms. Frola, that would go mad if she was to know the truth about Ms. Ponza's identity. Ms. Frola says that, indeed, Ms. Ponza is not leaving her room of her own volition, but that the scene she is putting up is for the benefit of Mr. Ponza. HE would go mad if he was to know the truth. Pirandello uses this play to explore the nature of truth (Does the truth exist? Is the truth unique? Can the truth be known?), the nature of identity (what does it mean to say that a person IS Ms. Ponza and not someone else? what does define a person?) and the nature of mental illness (Who is mad? Mr. Ponza? Ms. Frola? or perhaps is it Ms. Ponza? or all three of them? or whom?) and of the suffering it brings. These are three major themes in Pirandello's work and come back time and again in most of his work. I read the play in Italian, but I left my copy in Italy, so when I bought this translation for a present I did not resist and re-read it. The translation is decent. I think the translation is actually good, but Pirandello is especially difficult to translate because he uses ambiguous expressions on purpose.

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