



Dear Elizabeth: A Play in Letters from Elizabeth Bishop to Robert Lowell and Back Again

By Sarah Ruhl



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A moving, innovative play based on one of the greatest correspondences in literary history

From 1947 to 1977, Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop exchanged more than four hundred letters. Describing the writing of their poems, their travel and daily illnesses, the pyrotechnics of their romantic relationships, and the profound affection they had for each other, these missives are the most intimate record available of both poets and one of the greatest correspondences in American literature.

The playwright Sarah Ruhl fell in love with these letters and set herself an unusual challenge: to turn this thirty-year exchange into a stage play, and to bring to life the friendship of two writers who were rarely even in the same country. As innovative as it is moving, *Dear Elizabeth* gives voice to a conversation that lived mostly in writing, illuminating some of the finest poems of the twentieth century and the minds that produced them.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Ruhl's gentle treatment of the poems, the way she finds the breathing space between life and art, can't be overpraised. She crystallizes the magic of what is left unsaid and the piercing intimacy of regret in one beguiling passage after another.” ?Karen D'Souza, *San Jose Mercury News*

“Ruhl delicately explores, through nothing more than the letters and her own theatrical imagination, the solitude of the artist, the exactitude of the writer's craft, the balance between confession and privacy and, in the end, why poetry matters.” ?Frank Rizzo, *Variety*

“*Dear Elizabeth* mesmerizes in every way. An articulate, imaginative, and moving theatrical experience. . . . uniquely its own engaging creation. In an age of mutilated language and truncated texts, such a play commands every ounce of our attention.” ?E. Kyle Minor, *New Haven Register*

“Watching poets, even eminent poets, read and write to each other shouldn't be half as gripping as playwright Sarah Ruhl and director Les Waters make it in *Dear Elizabeth*.” ?Robert Hurwitt, *SFGate*

“Playwright Sarah Ruhl and her director and frequent collaborator Les Waters have re-set the rules and raised the bar for epistolary theatre in their bracing, moving and theatrically exciting production.” ?Andrew Beck, *Hartford Examiner*

“Riveting. A moving, funny, and highly theatrical experience.” ?Joe Meyers, *Connecticut Post*

About the Author

Sarah Ruhl's plays include *In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Tony Award nominee), *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize); *Passion Play, a Cycle* (PEN American Award); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes Award); and most recently, *Stage Kiss* and *Dear Elizabeth*. She has been the recipient of a MacArthur fellowship, the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award, the Whiting Writers' Award, the PEN Center Award for a midcareer playwright, the Feminist Press's Forty Under Forty Award, and the 2010 Lilly Award. She is currently on the faculty at Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her family.

Users Review

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Rodolfo Rodgers:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This Dear Elizabeth: A Play in Letters from Elizabeth Bishop to Robert Lowell and Back Again is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Louis Patrick:

Dear Elizabeth: A Play in Letters from Elizabeth Bishop to Robert Lowell and Back Again can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing Dear Elizabeth: A Play in Letters from Elizabeth Bishop to Robert Lowell and Back Again however doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial pondering.

Paul Evans:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this Dear Elizabeth: A Play in Letters from Elizabeth Bishop to Robert Lowell and Back Again reserve written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still question Dear Elizabeth: A Play in Letters from Elizabeth Bishop to Robert Lowell and Back Again as good book not just by the cover but also by content. This is one publication that can break don't evaluate book by its cover, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this particular!?! Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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