



# Betrayal

By Harold Pinter

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**Betrayal** By Harold Pinter

**“One of the most essential artists produced by the twentieth century. Pinter’s work gets under our skin more than that of any living playwright.”**  
—*New York Times*

Upon its premiere at the National Theatre, *Betrayal* was immediately recognized as a masterpiece. It won the Olivier Award for best new play, and has since been performed all around the world and made into an Academy Award-nominated film starring Jeremy Irons, Ben Kingsley, and Patricia Hodge. *Betrayal* begins with a meeting between adulterous lovers, Emma and Jerry, two years after their affair has ended. During the nine scenes of the play, we move back in time through the stages of their affair, ending in the house of Emma and her husband Robert, Jerry’s best friend.

**“[*Betrayal*] deals with the shifting balance of power in triangular relationships, and with the pain of loss. . . . Pinter probes the corrosive nature of betrayal . . . a world where pain and loss are explored with poetic precision.”** —*Guardian*

**“*Betrayal* is an exquisite play, brilliantly simple in form and courageous in its search for a poetry that turns banality into a melancholy beauty.”**  
—*Newsweek*

**“There is hardly a line into which desire, pain, alarm, sorrow, rage or some**

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## Betrayal By Harold Pinter Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### From the Back Cover

Betrayal is Pinter's latest full-length play since the enormous success of *No Man's Land*. The play begins in 1977, with a meeting between adulterous lovers, Emma and Jerry, two years after their affair has ended. During the nine scenes of the play, we move back in time, through the states of their affair, with the play ending in the house of Emma and Robert, her husband, who is Jerry's best friend.

#### About the Author

Harold Pinter was born in London in 1930. He lived with Antonia Fraser from 1975 and they married in 1980. In 1995 he won the David Cohen British Literature Prize, awarded for a lifetime's achievement in literature. In 1996 he was given the Laurence Olivier Award for a lifetime's achievement in theatre. In 2002 he was made a Companion of Honour for services to literature. In 2005 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and, in the same year, the Wilfred Owen Award for Poetry and the Franz Kafka Award (Prague). In 2006 he was awarded the Europe Theatre Prize and, in 2007, the highest French honour, the Legion d'honneur. He died in December 2008.

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