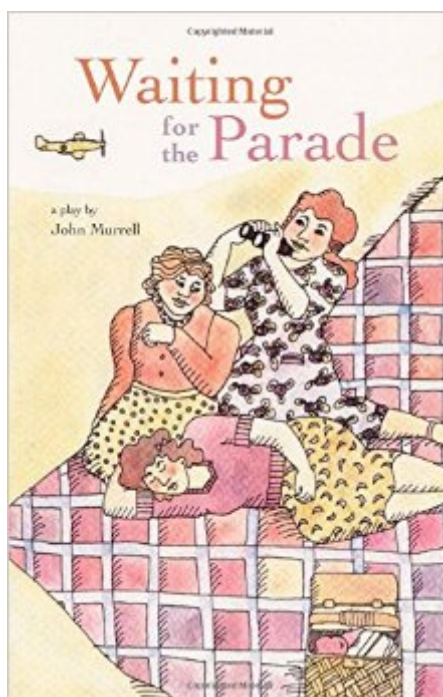


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Waiting For The Parade (Plays In Print 1980)



Synopsis

Waiting for the Parade is John Murrell's play, set in Calgary during World War II, in which five women gather to work for the war effort while their men are away. Waiting for the Parade was first performed by Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary. Subsequently, it has been performed by Northern Light Theatre, Edmonton; Bastion Theatre, Victoria; Tarragon Theatre, Toronto; the National Art Centre, Ottawa; Centaur Theatre, Montreal; and at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in London, England.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Set in Calgary during World War II, these 24 scenes follow the experiences of 5 Canadian women who form an uneasy alliance born of loneliness and tumult during an edgy wait for the parade that will herald the end. There's Catherine, abandoned by her impulsively enlisted husband, Janet, a wartime dynamo compensating for a secret shame, and Eve, a pacifist school-teacher hard hit by the concept of unquestioning patriotism. Fatalist Margaret, their senior by 20 years, has one enlisted son and one arrested for protesting. Marta, a German-born Canadian citizen, becomes a target of harassment and suspicion in her own community while her senile, Nazi-sympathizing father idles in prison growing steadily crazier. This bittersweet drama well exemplifies the isolation & loss of those left behind, against scenes of air raid drills, Red Cross activities, dark merriment & leg-painting parties. I don't recommend this play merely for reading, as the emotional gravity and

singing-rehearsal scenes would not be adequately captured, but it's worthwhile and interesting hour-&-a-half when portrayed by a talented cast. (There are also a number of affecting monologues--most notably Marta's--suitable for actresses who want something slightly obscure to audition with.)

Waiting for the Parade is an excellent piece of Canadian literature. From an actor's point of view, the characters are believable and it is easy to grow to care for them as the play progresses. It is also an amazing resource for any female looking for good monologues!

I was SO hoping this script would demand I add it to the season at my theater company. Alas. It did not.

The best play I have ever been in. As soon as I read it, I knew I had to be in. Emotionally charged.

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