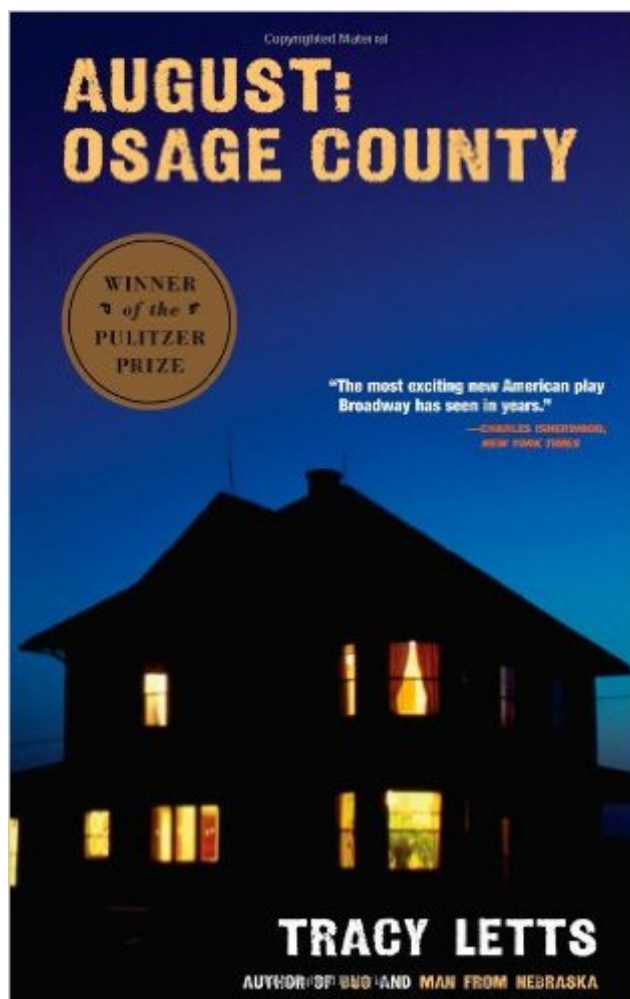


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# August: Osage County (TCG Edition)



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2008 Tony Award for Best New Play. Now a major motion picture!"A tremendous achievement in American playwriting: a tragicomic populist portrait of a tough land and a tougher people." &#151;TimeOut New York"Tracy Letts' August: Osage County is what O'Neill would be writing in 2007. Letts has recaptured the nobility of American drama's mid-century heyday while still creating something entirely original." &#151;New York magazine&#147;I donâ™t care if August: Osage County is three-and-a-half hours long. I wanted more.â • &#150;Howard Shapiro, Philadelphia Inquirer"This original and corrosive black comedy deserves a seat at the table with the great American family plays."&#151;TimeOne of the most bracing and critically acclaimed plays in recent history, August: Osage County is a portrait of the dysfunctional American family at its finest&#151;and absolute worst. When the patriarch of the Weston clan disappears one hot summer night, the family reunites at the Oklahoma homestead, where long-held secrets are unflinchingly and uproariously revealed. The three-act, three-and-a-half-hour mammoth of a play combines epic tragedy with black comedy, dramatizing three generations of unfulfilled dreams and leaving not one of its thirteen characters unscathed.August: Osage County has been produced in more than twenty countries worldwide and is now a major motion picture starring Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Chris Cooper, Dermot Mulroney, Sam Shepard, Juliette Lewis, and Ewan McGregor.Tracy Letts is the author of Killer Joe, Bug, and Man from Nebraska, which was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. His plays have been performed throughout the country and internationally. A performer as well as a playwright, Letts is a member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where August: Osage County premiered.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Debuting in 2007, Tracy Letts' AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY was an instant critical success, and many compared Letts with such Eugene O'Neill and his LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT and Edward Albee and his WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF. Letts certainly has the great sense of theatre that characterizes these writers and their plays, but in truth one might better describe him as the Jacqueline Susann of the theatrical world, with AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY something like a rural VALLEY OF THE DOLLS. Alcohol, drugs, suicide, nasty divorce, ill-advised marriage, seduction, child molestation, incest, and racism are the fabric of his tale--tossed about with considerable profanity and some of the nastiest dark humor imaginable. "She smuggled Darvocet into the psych ward in her vagina," daughter Barbara says acidly of her drug-addicted mother Violet. "There's your Greatest Generation for you. She made this speech to us while she was clenching a bottle of pills in her cooch, for God's sake." The play opens as Beverly Weston, a noted poet, retired professor, and practicing alcoholic interviews Johnna for the position of housekeeper, cook, and his wife Violet's keeper. Beverly is drunk, but not so drunk that he cannot give a mean lecture on the tendencies of Hart Crane, John Berryman, and T.S. Eliot in a stream of remarks that eventually become the intellectual key of the play--for Eliot, he has made a disastrous marriage and like Crane and Berryman he is preparing to commit suicide.

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