



The Winslow Boy

Terence Rattigan

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Just filmed by David Mamet, starring Nigel Hawthorne and Jeremy Northam, *The Winslow Boy* is based on the real-life court case of a young naval cadet unjustly accused of stealing a five shilling postal order. An eminent—and initially unsympathetic—QC takes on the case, and the boy has to withstand the full might of the Royal Naval Establishment seeking to discredit him.

The Winslow Boy Details

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Author : Terence Rattigan

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From Reader Review The Winslow Boy for online ebook

Angela says

This is a great play - I love the family interactions throughout the story. The subtleness of the character study may make the plot seem a bit slow, but the point of the play is the people, not the action. It has a great message, but without being heavy-handed about it.

FYI - David Mamet's movie is a fantastic version, and stays very true to Rattigan's play. Definitely worth checking out if you enjoyed reading the original.

Jeff Yoak says

A great, short read.

Hannah says

I really enjoyed reading this play! The story was interesting and filled with witty dialogue, a strong cast of characters, an interesting and thought provoking subject and all in a relatively short script.

Daisy Leather says

What a beautiful play about family, loyalty and sacrifice. It made me cry a number of times throughout. Catherine is an amazing woman - strong minded, powerful, self assured, confident, and yet feels so deeply without letting her emotions take over or cloud her judgement. And I wish I had an Arthur in my life to advocate for me as he does for Ronnie. Even the sacrifice Sir Robert makes is entirely unexpected and yet so touching, for a case that could be considered so trivial but for the purpose of it simply being RIGHT. Love love loved it.

ems says

so glad this wasn't the book i thought i was reading. after the first 10 pgs or so i was settling in for a moby dick-type plot, family is destroyed by father's quest for justice blah blah. i kept thinking, why can't this be about kate instead. and then it kind of was. and then i thought, she needs to lose that fiance and go into politics herself. AND SHE DID. this almost never happens. i'm so happy.

Ellie says

Apparently this was meant to be really revolutionary when it was first performed but I don't think it's stood the test of time. I even went to see a performance last night and I still found it pretty boring

Michelle says

Excerpt -- Best. Repartee. Ever.

CATHERINE

Father, I've been a fool.

ARTHUR

Have you, my dear?

CATHERINE

An utter fool.

ARTHUR

In default of further information, I can only repeat: Have you, my dear?

CATHERINE

There can be no further information. I'm under a pledge of secrecy.

Bettie? says

Script, and Film and radio play

Julieta Ninno says

PUNTUACIÓN: 2,5 estrellas

zeinab says

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Sabrina says

This mid 20th century play holds increasing relevance in a time when truth, right, and the law are so much on our minds. This play asks: where does personal dignity and honor intersect with the good of all citizens? At which injustice does the line of tranny begin?

This play is about a father and daughter's quest for justice for their son/brother and asks important questions such as "what is the distinction between right and justice?" and "how far would you go to see right done? What happens when those sacrifices are not yours?" and "what if the easier, better path for everyone involved would have been to let it go?"

A smart, sometimes coy, funny, and sweet story hiding a wealth of important questions in the folds of its fabric. The 1999 Mamet film is a tremendous movie, in part because it was so well cast, but in larger part because Mamet's screenplay stays true to the wonderful material already there, merely enlarging it in a way that cannot be done on a stage.

Werner says

In 1908, a British boy of about 14, George Archer Shee [a double last name, and pronounced "Shay"], from a respectable but not rich family, was expelled from the Osborne Naval College after being falsely accused of stealing a five-shilling postal money order from a fellow cadet. (The administrators assumed his guilt and made no real attempt to investigate.) He and his family maintained his innocence, convinced one of England's leading lawyers to take the case, and brought suit against the Admiralty for redress (an uphill battle from the start, since agencies of the British government could not be sued in British courts without their own consent!). Four days into what became a high-profile trial, the Crown counsel conceded George's innocence. (Sadly, young George lived to be only 19, dying in World War I at the first battle of Ypres.)

Acclaimed 20th-century British playwright Terence Rattigan took this real-life incident as the basis for this play, changing the names of the people involved (George Archer Shee becomes Ronnie Winslow, for instance), and changing some details, some character's ages, etc., and fictionalizing some plot lines, but keeping the essential premise intact. The result is a very powerful and engrossing drama, set against the background of the Edwardian era with its strict social conventions and its almost-vanished codes of personal integrity and honor. It's a David vs. Goliath tale, with messages about the value of truth and defending one's good name, about justice and fairness in the way people are treated by those in power, about family loyalty, moral courage, and willingness to sacrifice in a good cause. Rattigan doesn't give us the courtroom scenes here, focusing instead on the family relationships and interpersonal dynamics of the characters. Two of the

latter who stand out the most are Ronnie's older sister Catherine, a suffragette and social rule-breaker with a heart for justice, and staid conservative legal titan (and opponent of women's suffrage, from his seat in Parliament) Sir Robert Morton. (view spoiler)

This was required reading in my English class in the spring semester of my sophomore year in high school, and it's stayed with me ever since (though I'd forgotten the author's name and title until recently). It's been filmed several times; I've never been fortunate enough to see any of those productions (nor any live one), but I'd really like to see the 1990 TV movie version with Emma Thompson as Catherine!

Since I haven't read or watched any of Rattigan's other plays, I can't say how typical this one is of his output. On the strength of this work alone, though, I'd say he deserves a place in the history of the English theater of the 20th century. This is a work that stands out, especially in its beacon-like moral clarity, in contrast to the bleak nihilism of so much English-language drama in the later 20th century. To my chagrin, I've discovered that Rattigan is largely (or maybe completely!) unrepresented in Bluefield College's library collection. That's a gap I'm definitely going to remedy!

Laura says

From BBC Radio 4 Extra:

"It is easy to do justice - very hard to do right".

Let Right Be Done. A father battles to prove the innocence of his son, accused of stealing a postal order at his Edwardian naval college. His stubborn quest sparks reverberations at the House of Commons.

Stars Michael Aldridge as Arthur Winslow, Pauline Letts as Grace Winslow, Sarah Badel as Catherine Winslow, Michael Maloney as Dickie Winslow, John McAndrew as Ronnie Winslow and Nicholas Courtney as the Attorney-General.

Adapted from Terence Rattigan's stage and TV scripts and directed by Ian Cotterell

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1986.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0129678>

Jimena González Lebrero says

“(...) This victory is not mine, it is the people who have triumphed - as they always will triumph - over despotism.”

The Winslow Boy es una obra de teatro publicada en el año 1946 y basada en un hecho real. Ronnie Winslow tiene 14 años y es estudiante en el Royal Naval College; antes de terminado el año escolar es expulsado y enviado a su casa con una carta para su padre en donde se explica que Ronnie es culpable de haber robado 5 chelines correspondientes a un giro postal. Considerándolo una injusticia, el padre inicia una

demanda no sólo para probar la inocencia de su hijo sino para demostrar la impunidad de la milicia Británica.

abhitastic7 says

I don't have many words for this. I'm actually speechless. With this book, we get an insight in how people lived during those times, and what happens to a boy living during that time. It's beautiful.

Jack Gardner says

Justice Be Done

Great play and both movies. Entertaining on the issue of justice. Is it truly in the public interest to sacrifice individual rights on occasion in the name of public good? "Let right be done."

Linda Hart says

This excellent stage play is based on an actual incident in the Edwardian era, which took place at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, England. Before he took the case, the barrister who was to represent him subjected the boy to questioning to test his story, only accepting once he had satisfied himself of the boy's innocence.

The theme of the lawsuit was "Let Right be Done" which recognizes the operative principle that what is legal does not mean it is right.

If Sir Robert Morton were to appear in the courts today I wonder if his ringing cry for right would move the hardened hearts of the justice system.

Favorite quote(s):

Sir Robert Morton

"I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker. . . I will not yield. . . You shall not side with the great against the powerless. . . Have you heard those words, gentlemen? Do you recognize their source? From that same source I add this injunction. It is this: what you do to the least of them you do to me."

Imohamad says

It was an interesting book showing the lengths family members go for each other.

James says

Premiered in 1946, *The Winslow Boy* is based on an actual incident, in which fourteen-year-old Ronnie Winslow (John McAndrew) is falsely accused of stealing a five-shilling postal order, and expelled from the Royal Naval College. Eventually his name is cleared, but only after the intervention of eminent QC Sir Robert Morton (Aubrey Woods), who takes the case to the House of Commons and the High Court. The play celebrates the Winslow family's fight for justice, as they are prepared to sacrifice everything, both materially and emotionally. Arthur Winslow (Michael Aldridge) puts his own health at risk, while daughter Kate (Sarah Badel) gives up on a prosperous marriage.

Ronnie is the subject of the entire case and he tries to live a normal life midst the extraordinary circumstances taking place around him. It was clear he would rather spend a afternoon at the local cinema rather than go to court. It is through the character of Ronnie that the reader can reflect on the merits of the case: did the Winslows do the right thing by pursuing it to its farthest extent, or would they have been better off abandoning the whole thing?

Victoria Sethunya says

I was about 13 when I read *The Winslow Boy*. Ever since then the courthouse is a dreadful place, and I believe it was from the fear that I developed as I went through various motions with the young Winslow. Great read for all ages.
