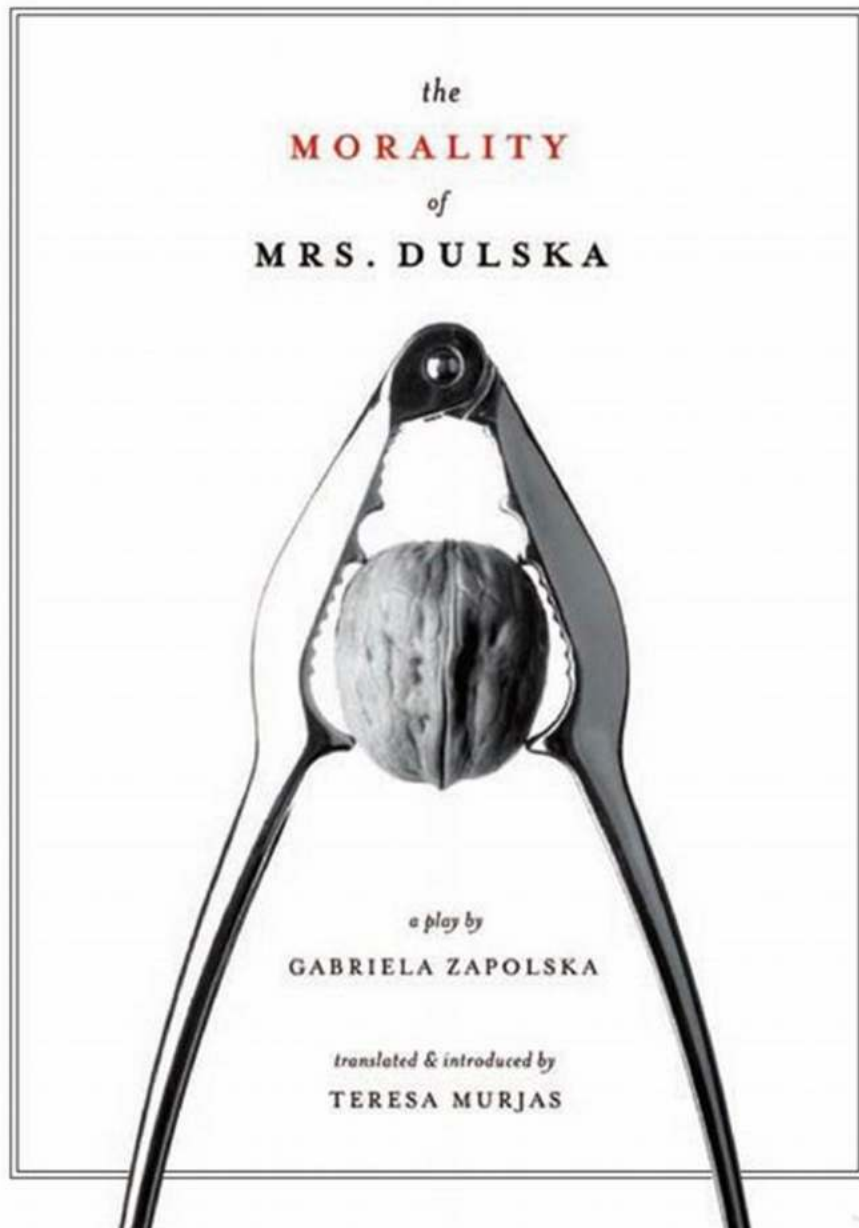


The Morality Of Mrs Dulska: Unveiling the Compelling Layers of This Controversial Play



The Morality Of Mrs Dulska, a renowned play written by Gabriela Zapolska, is an insightful examination of society's moral fabric at the turn of the 20th century. This remarkable piece of literature delves into themes of social hypocrisy, moral corruption, and the struggle between societal expectations and individual

freedom. In this article, we will explore the various elements that make this play a compelling and thought-provoking work of art.

Unmasking Social Hypocrisy

Through the characters of Mrs Dulska and her family, Zapolska skillfully exposes the double standards and hypocrisy prevalent in society. Mrs Dulska, a working-class woman, strives to provide for her family while facing constant judgments from the upper-class. The play challenges the hypocrisy of those who claim moral superiority while engaging in immoral actions themselves. Whether it be the affluent neighbor who looks down upon Mrs Dulska or the hypocritical priest, Zapolska effectively portrays the stark contrast between public appearances and private realities.



The Morality of Mrs. Dulska: A Play by Gabriela Zapolska (ISSN) by James Hutson (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2834 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 194 pages



The Struggle for Individual Freedom

Another significant aspect of The Morality Of Mrs Dulska is the exploration of the individual's struggle against societal expectations. The main character, Mrs Dulska, defies the norms expected of her gender and social class. She challenges traditional gender roles and refuses to conform to the restrictive

confines set by society. Zapolska highlights the importance of personal autonomy and the consequences of suppressing one's true identity in the pursuit of acceptance.

Moral Corruption and its Consequences

The play strongly addresses the issue of moral corruption and its devastating consequences. The characters in *The Morality Of Mrs Dulska* are entangled in a web of lies, deceit, and moral decay. Zapolska underscores how these moral transgressions not only affect individuals but ultimately corrupt society as a whole. The play serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the importance of upholding moral values and the dire repercussions of their abandonment.

Powerful Symbolism and Imagery

Zapolska adeptly employs symbolism and vivid imagery to enhance the impact of *The Morality Of Mrs Dulska*. The recurring motif of the white feather represents purity and innocence, contrasting sharply with the characters' immoral actions. The decaying cityscape serves as a visual metaphor for the corrupt state of society. Through these striking literary devices, Zapolska effectively conveys her message and draws the audience deeper into the narrative.

The Influence of *The Morality Of Mrs Dulska*

Despite being written over a century ago, *The Morality Of Mrs Dulska* remains a timeless play that continues to captivate audiences with its enduring themes. The exploration of social hypocrisy, the struggle for individual freedom, and the consequences of moral corruption are still highly relevant in today's society. Theatre buffs and scholars alike recognize Zapolska's profound contribution to the dramatic arts through this evocative and thought-provoking play.

The Morality Of Mrs Dulka serves as a powerful reminder of the complex interplay between societal values, individual freedom, and moral corruption. Through its compelling characters, thought-provoking themes, and skillful storytelling, Gabriela Zapolska's play continues to resonate with audiences around the world. It forces us to critically examine the societal norms and moral dilemmas we face, inviting introspection and reflection on our own actions. The Morality Of Mrs Dulka is not only a theatrical masterpiece but also a profound study of morality that challenges us to ponder the nature of human existence and the choices we make.



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Gabriela Zapolska (1857-1921) was an actor, journalist and playwright. She was born during the 123 year partition of Poland by Austria, Prussia and Russia and wrote over thirty plays. The Morality of Mrs. Dulka (1906), a 'petty-bourgeois tragic-farce', is probably her best known. Mrs Dulka is a cross between Patricia Routledge's Hyacinth Bucket and Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage. She is the tyrannical and hilarious landlady of a fine stone tenement building – proud, shrewd and highly preoccupied with appearances. Dulka keeps her purse strings tightly drawn and exploits her tenants in a most unforgiving fashion. To the

unhappy woman from the first floor apartment who tries to poison herself by swallowing some match heads, she shows no mercy. To her serving maid, who she effectively prostitutes to her son in order to keep his philandering under her own roof and within her control, she shows no compassion. Her daughters struggle through the torments of adolescence with the facts of life skillfully concealed from them, and her husband, worn down over the years by his power-hungry wife, has barely a word to say to his family. It is her son that Mrs Dulaska loves – loves with an unhealthy possessiveness. Her fear that he will leave prompts her to fund the servicing of his every desire. Why is it, then, that he resents her so much? Why is it that he feels compelled to seek revenge?

Zapolska's uncompromising look at gender construction and class oppression in fin-de-siecle Poland is witty, entertaining and incisive. This is the first published UK translation of this popular Polish classic. It was prepared by Teresa Murjas, a lecturer in Theatre at the University of Reading. In her , Teresa discusses how the translation and first UK production, which she directed, were developed. She introduces Zapolska's work in its historical contexts, provides the reader with relevant biographical information and considers the play's performance history up to the present day. She draws these strands together into a narrative of deportation, exile and emigration.



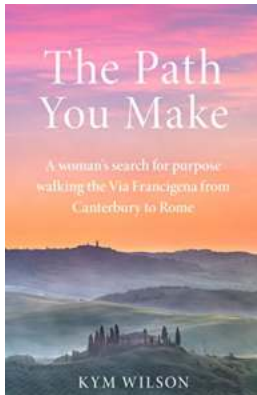
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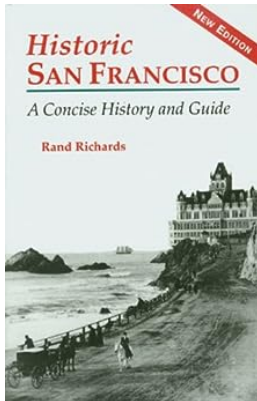
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