



# And When the Arguing's Over...: Contemporary Plays

*Garry Crystal*

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And When the Arguing's Over...where will you be and what will you have achieved?

People argue on a daily basis but these conflicts are not always what they appear to be. Sometimes a little perception is needed to read between the lines in order to get to the truth.

Six plays covering themes such as following the herd and selling out at work. The desire to be noticed, fiction versus non-fiction, fact versus memory and the comforting lies we tell each other and ourselves to make life a little easier. And hope – because without hope, even misguided hope, what would be the point in arguing?

Includes –

Hecklers – a stand-up comedian is heckled on stage during a comedy festival leading to a debate on originality in art versus following the herd in order to obtain an audience.

Appraising – a depressed employee attends a work appraisal where a character defining question is asked - would you would remain in hell if the devil paid you enough?

The Elephant Frowned – a journalist interviews a film director and breaks through an idealized personality to uncover truth, lies and manipulation. But what is reality and what is fiction when everyone has an agenda?

Happily...ever... – one person wants to get married, the other doesn't. The eternal argument. What happens to love when marriage becomes a deal-breaker?

Algeciras – the morning after. Two strangers who have spent the night together spend the next morning trying to convince each other that further contact is and isn't required.

The Seawall – a short meeting between two people, but what is this rendezvous actually about.

Adult themes and strong language throughout.

62 pages.

\*These plays are included in the collection of short stories *All of Us With Our Pointless Worries and Inconsequential Dramas*

Cover photo courtesy of dollen

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Review

"Although these stories themes deal with the subject of arguing, this is not to say that these are angry, bitter tales. They are infused with a healthy dose of humor and wit that Crystal's previous work is known for. It

takes a lot of talent to be able to write fully realized stories using only dialogue.

In “Appraising”, the setting is a job interview. As you read on, you’re not quite clear exactly who these characters are. From the dialogue alone, you assume one character is a man, the other is a woman, but you aren’t sure which one is which, and the realization creeps up on you, little by little, and just when you’re finally trying to come to grips with your own assumptions about gender, he deftly pulls the rug out from under you and offers another beautiful twist. That I will leave up to you to see after you read this wonderful story."

In “Algerias”, keeping with the theme of this collection, a young couple argue and you feel like you’re eavesdropping on an intimate moment in their relationship. The most interesting thing about this story to me is the fact that while it’s composed strictly of dialogue, you can see the setting: I imagine it being in the bedroom, sheets in disarray, each holding their own on their side of the bed, the imaginary barrier between them as they each try to make their point but to no avail. Anyone who’s been in a relationship will no doubt relate to this story but it’s the power of the language that virtually dictates the visuals that impressed me the most; and the great thing about such a story is that it will always be different for those who read it, most likely relating their own experience into the piece.” Julian Gallo, Expats Post

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