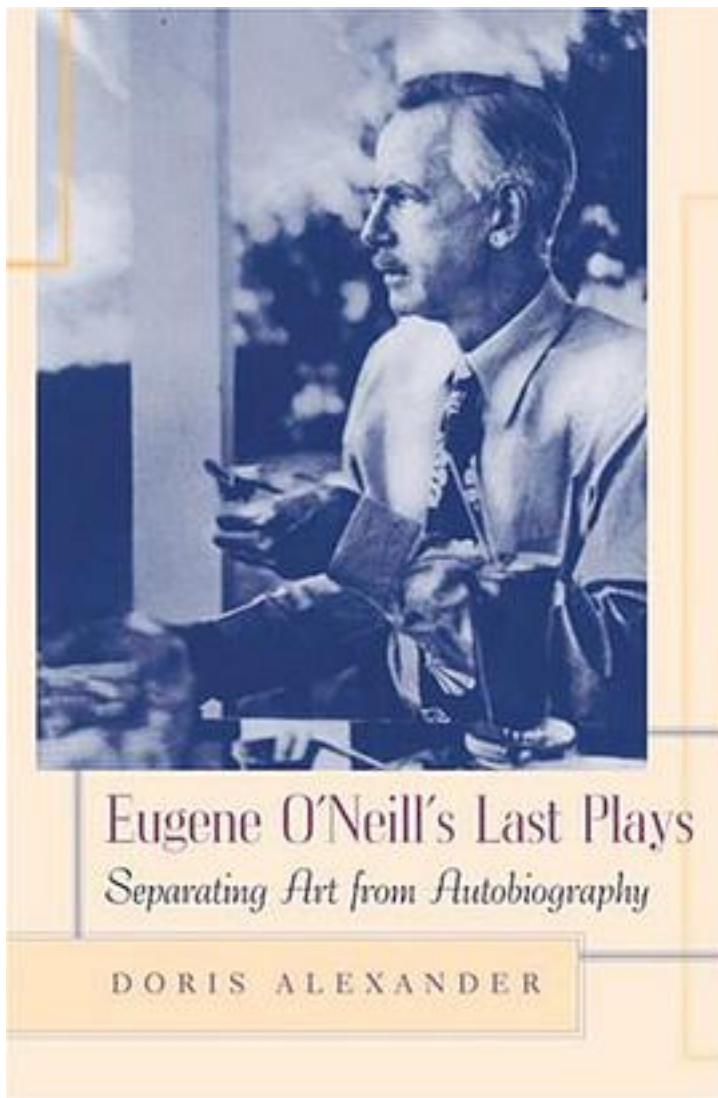


# Eugene O'Neill's Last Plays



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This study draws on new and unprecedented research concerning the lives of Eugene O'Neill, his family, and his circle. It corrects and expands the biographical record on O'Neill, sharpens our understanding of his art, and distinguishes the man and his life more clearly than ever from the creations that were inspired by, and drew on, that life. In his final creative years, 1939 to 1943, O'Neill wrote "The Iceman Cometh," "Long Day's Journey into Night," and "A Moon for the Misbegotten." Because these plays are so intense, intimate, and evocative of the friends and family members who influenced O'Neill's artistic development, biographers and critics have long--and mistakenly--regarded them as accurate sources for insights into the playwright's early years. Drawing upon interviews and a staggering amount of archival research into multiple generations of the O'Neill family, Alexander sets the historical record straight by documenting the actual people and situations on which characters and scenes in O'Neill's last plays are based. Included in her study are such topics as the playwright's attempted suicide, his tuberculosis, and his relationship with his parents. By revealing the distinctions between O'Neill's life and his art, Alexander's findings make possible greater insight into the artistry that shaped these final plays and brought them to life.

作者介绍:

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