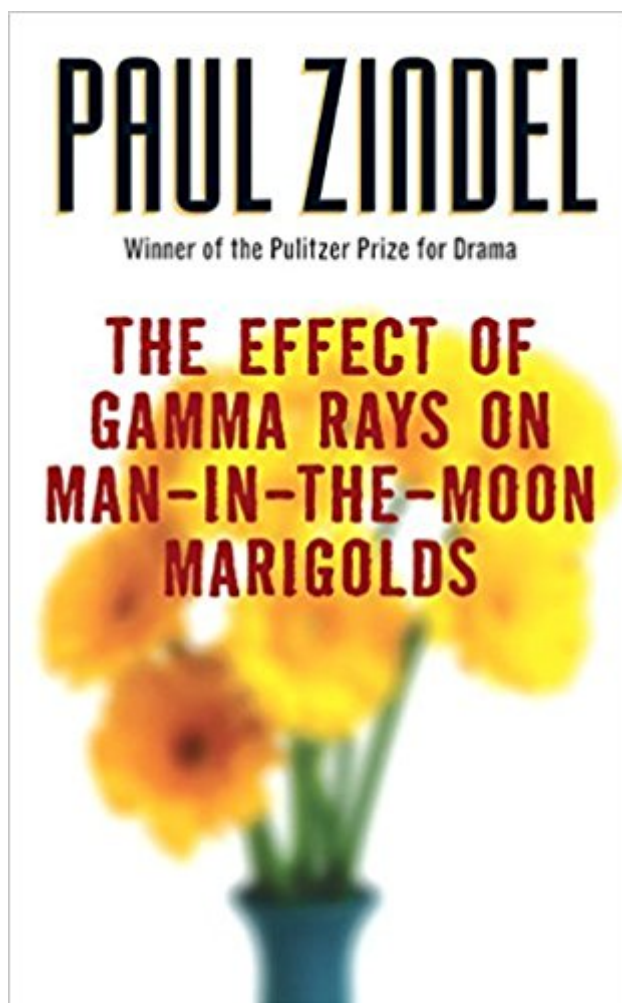




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The Effect Of Gamma Rays On Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds



Synopsis

The Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Paul Zindel, author of the beloved bestselling novel *The Pigman*, which *Publishers Weekly* called “remarkable” a story that will not be denied. Fans of modern classics such as *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton and *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher will find much to love in Paul Zindel’s books. The old, converted vegetable shop where Tillie lives is more like a madhouse than a home. Tillie’s mother is bitter and cruel, yet desperate for her daughters’ love. Her sister suffers epileptic fits and sneaks cigarettes every chance she gets. But despite the chaos, Tillie struggles to keep her dreams alive. Tillie •keeper of rabbits, dreamer of atoms, true believer in life, hope, and the effect of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds... Paul Zindel’s work is bestselling, critically acclaimed, and passionately embraced by generations of readers.

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Customer Reviews

Naturalistic drama in two acts by Paul Zindel, produced in 1965. It won the Pulitzer Prize when it was published in 1971. Largely autobiographical, the play is noted for its sympathetic characterizations. The story centers on Beatrice Hunsdorfer, an impractical, embittered widow living with her two awkward teenage daughters in a ramshackle house where she makes a living by nursing an elderly invalid. Alternately charming and abrasive, Beatrice is generally selfish like her elder daughter, Ruth, who suffers from convulsions brought on by a childhood trauma. The younger daughter, Tillie, is an eccentric outcast who earns respect by winning her school science project. --

The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beatrice was a mother . . . and the embittered ringmaster of the circus Hunsdorfer featuring three generations of crazy ladies living under the sloppiest big top on earth. Nanny was no problem. She sat and stared and stayed silent as a venerable vegetable should. Ruth was half-mad and easily bought with an occasional cigarette. But how is the world would Beatrice control Tillie--keeper of rabbits, dreamer of atoms, true believer in life, hope, and the effect of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds . . ."Paul Zindel was written a masterful, pacesetting drama. It combines moments of pain, poignancy, beauty, and hope. It is the most compelling work of its kind since Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*."--Variety."The ultimate accolade must go to Paul Zindel for creating a psychologically perceptive ambiance. Shame hangs in the air of this house and palpably as poison gas. And yet, Zindel reminds us, strong, strange, beautiful flowers spring from such compost heaps. It is a troubling thought, one of the honest and intelligent values of this splendid and tormented play."--Time --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of my favorite plays and one of the few that won the Pulitzer that deserved it. A heart-rending and funny tale about a child growing up in psychological isolation, it hits all the right notes. It's particularly timely now that so many of our young people are increasingly isolation via the Internet and devices. I'm using this play as a model with one of my MA students in playwriting at the MA/MFA Program in Creative Writing at Wilkes University and find that it is also a great teaching tool for dramatizing character and subtle conflict.

Beatrice and her two daughters, Ruth and Tillie, live in cheap accommodation in a converted shop. The store's front display window is still there, but covered in newspapers. All three females struggle, in their various ways, with the toxicity of life, with the fact that 'fairness' is for them a distant hope far beyond their grasp. For Beatrice the struggle takes the form of 'get-rich-quick' schemes as a way of escaping 'failure'. For Ruth the hard facts of life, particularly the reality of death, lead to a kind of epileptic fit, a retreat into unconsciousness. For Tillie the answer is in learning and especially science. Together these three people hurt and encourage one another as they engage in the 'struggle for life'. This play won the 1971 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and that is certainly an indication of its quality. It has had a successful run Off Broadway and has been made into a television drama.

This is certainly not Shakespeare, but is definitely far above the ho-hum plotting of, for example, most TV plays. The creative use of lighting and symbolism are the best features, which combine to generate a psychologically poignant ambiance. This is only a two act play, so be warned, if you are looking for searching character analysis and deep philosophy you will not find it here. The play would do admirably as the subject of a school essay, and Gale has indeed released a study book for such purposes (Paul Zindel's "The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds": A Study Guide from Gale's "Drama for Students" (Volume 12, Chapter 3)).

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This is a wonderful story from my childhood, about a young woman's struggle to survive in a dysfunctional family.

This book, written in script format, is a true classic of young adult literature. The depth of intricacy displayed by Mr Zindel in his characterizations in such a short order is one of the reasons why his work stands the test of time.

I tried to use this to learn my lines for a local college production, (I played Beatrice) but this book was so different from the script that it became unusable for that purpose. It might be fine to get the gist of the play, but not for an actual production.

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