

The book was found

# Six Yuan Plays (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Although their Mongol overlords (beginning with the founding of the Yuan dynasty by Kublai Khan in 1280) tyrannized the Chinese in nearly every area of life, the arts enjoyed a new-found freedom. On the one hand oppressed, on the other released from the straight-jacket of Confucianism, the Chinese made the most of recent developments in poetry and drama. Yuan plays were a tonic, an amazing spectacleâ€”colorful outbursts of singing, dancing, music, acting and mime. They poured new life into old storiesâ€”oppressors were ridiculed, servants became masters, scenes changed, day followed night in the twinkling of an eyeâ€”and audiences flocked to enjoy what must have been complete entertainment. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

Series: Penguin Classics

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics; Reissue edition (September 30, 1972)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140442626

ISBN-13: 978-0140442625

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #327,002 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > Asian

## Customer Reviews

"Six Yuan Plays" is an anthology whose contents are translated by Liu Jung-en, who also contributes an introduction. The book brings together plays from 13th and 14th century China. The contents are as follows: "The Orphan of Chao," a revenge story by Chi Chun-hsiang; "The Soul of Ch'ien-nu Leaves her Body," a paranormal love story by Cheng Teh-hui; "The Injustice Done to Tou Ngo," a supernatural story of injustice by Kuan Han-ch'ing; "Chang Boils the Sea," a magical love

story by Li Hao-ku; "Autumn in Han Palace," a political love story by Ma Chih-yuan; and the anonymous "A Stratagem of Interlocking Rings," a story of political intrigue. Throughout this anthology, I was reminded of the popular film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which also evokes a long-ago era of Chinese history. Many of these plays also reminded me at times of Shakespearean drama. These plays are richly populated with a diverse body of human characters: lovers, villains, emperors, warriors, court officials, and more. There are also a number of supernatural characters such as a Taoist immortal and the Divine Dragon King. Liu Jung-en's English versions of these plays are beautifully written, and contain some really poetic language. This anthology's marvelous mix of courtly intrigue, romance, magic, folkloric elements, and tragedy is really stunning. Together, these plays constitute an enchanting body of literature. I recommend this collection both for literature classes and for individual readers.

I was pleased with the selection of plays, and I thought the translator's notes and simple illustration of the musical instruments employed in these plays were very helpful. I've another of these plays ("Circle of Chalk") in a separate translation produced decades ago and I was delighted to read translations of six more plays in this genre. I hope another volume is forthcoming.

The book is clean and with very few notes. The paper is a little bit yellow, but that does not affect my reading.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Six Yuan Plays (Penguin Classics) The Columbia Anthology of Yuan Drama (Translations from the Asian Classics) George Eliot Six Pack - Middlemarch, Daniel Deronda, Silas Marner, The Lifted Veil, The Mill on the Floss and Adam Bede (Illustrated with links to free ... all six books) (Six Pack Classics Book 8) The Penguin Arthur Miller: Collected Plays (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) Brecht Collected Plays: 1: Baal; Drums in the Night; In the Jungle of Cities; Life of Edward II of England; & 5 One Act Plays (World Classics) (Vol 1) Ostrovsky: Plays Two: Plays 2 (Absolute Classics) Lysistrata and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) Frogs and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) Medea and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) The Theban Plays: King Oedipus; Oedipus at Colonus; Antigone (Penguin Classics) The Bacchae and Other Plays Publisher: Penguin Classics; Revised edition Plays (Penguin Classics) A Doll's House and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) Four French Plays: Cinna, The Misanthrope, Andromache, Phaedra (Penguin Classics) The Misanthrope and Other Plays: "Such Foolish Affected Ladies", "Tartuffe", "The M (Penguin Classics) The Miser and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) The Master Builder and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) Hedda

Gabler and Other Plays (Penguin Classics) The Penguin Book of Caribbean Verse in English  
(Penguin Classics) The Penguin Book of Russian Poetry (Penguin Classics)

[Dmca](#)