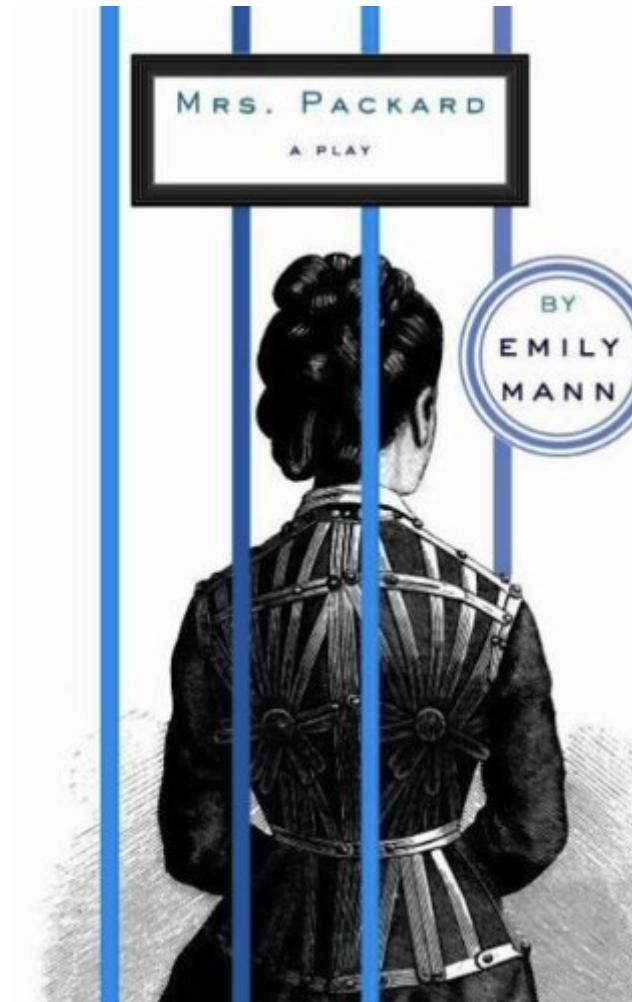


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# Mrs. Packard



## Synopsis

Emily Mann is one of our most urgently engaging, provocative and significant American playwrights. Joyce Carol Oates Elizabeth Packard emerges as a vibrant, passionate force of nature. The New York Times Illinois, 1861: Without proof of insanity, Elizabeth Packard is committed by her husband to an asylum. Based on historical events, Emily Mann's play tells of one woman's struggle to right a system gone wrong in this winner of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award. Emily Mann is a playwright and director, now in her nineteenth season as artistic director of McCarter Theatre. Her award-winning plays have been produced throughout the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The story behind Mrs. Packard is fascinating, but Mann loses the style about halfway through. The injections of the court interviews become increasingly frequent and don't always blend into the current action of the story. The epilogue at the end of the play comes across as an afterthought and a cop out; I would have appreciated a better way for Mann to end the story rather than through narration a la subtitles.

Like most of Emily Mann's work, the topic is extremely interesting and a good reminder of how far women and mental health have come since the 19th century. The character of Mrs. Packard is compelling. In the reading of the play and the content, I give it a 5. In looking to use it for a cast with less experience, I fear their impulse will be toward a high pitched hysteria.

I love this play. It is entertaining, gritty, frustrating, and funny. If you are looking for a period piece adapted into a play, this is your text. And it only adds to the appeal that it is a true story.

Well written easy read, would love to see play live!

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