

Üzgünüz By John Osborne It's all too frequently a setting for the display of intimidating and triumphal cruelty that takes verbal forms we may not have anticipated but that we immediately recognize when we hear them. Some among us seem to be virtuosos when it comes to cynically devising and inflicting pain.

Look Back in Anger first performed at London's Royal Court Theatre in 1956 is often cited as marking a theatrical revolution. He is from a working class family and although he has a university degree has turned his back on the sort of well paid white collar job that such an educational background would normally have led to in the fifties working as a trader in the local market running a sweet stall with his friend Cliff. It was in the late fifties that the term Angry Young Man was coined by the critics to describe not only writers such as Osborne Kingsley Amis and John Braine but also their characters such as Jimmy Porter and Amis's Lucky Jim who were seen as the mouthpieces of their creators. In another Osborne play from around the same period An Epitaph for George Dillon the hero himself a playwright is advised by his agent to cut out the long speeches from his latest play which are seen as being too Bernard Shaw. This is not advice which Osborne took himself although the passionate emotional Look Back in Anger is very different in style to Shaw's plays which at times can read like extracts from the proceedings of a debating society. In these speeches Jimmy attacks the state of British society and often takes the opportunity to have a go at Alison and her family (especially her mother) whom he sees as part of the traditional British ruling class. A frequent theme of his complaints is that there are no longer any good causes to fight for; he envies his parents' generation who could fight the anti fascist battles of the thirties and forties. There are plenty of people in Britain especially from Helena's upper middle class stratum of society who speak in precisely that stilted formal tone of voice as a substitute for feeling. Although it had enthusiastic supporters such as the critics Kenneth Tynan and Harold Hobson Look Back was highly controversial when it was first produced being too shocking for many critics and theatregoers in the fifties. Though they have no immediate concrete excuses the brutes I've known have long since put forth a false flimsy and far fetched but insidiously plausible patch work of contextual explanations for any and all abusive excesses. Jimmy is sure that he's as smart and well educated as anyone and he may be but he attended a lesser university in the British academic status hierarchy and he lives and makes a living as a member of the working class. He sees himself as a victim of the pernicious and pervasive class structure that organizes once proudly imperial Great Britain and he takes pains to present himself as a rude boisterous ill mannered lout making the case that his oppressors and their hierarchical system are right. She married Jimmy over her parents' intensely bitter objections and as his wife we see her standing at the ironing board making tea doing laundry and absorbing punishment but not much else. If I hadn't seen relationships such as this for myself my parents were a case in point I'd conclude that the marriage of Jimmy and Allison was too destructive and devoid of everyday comforts to be anything than an unconvincing literary contrivance. It's all too easy to lose sight of the fact that our damaging irrationality often assures that the most objectionable among us get the most love devotion and other micro social payoffs. However my copy was quite old and cover wasn't like the photo (that's not the main issue) i had pencil and highlight in mine but the problem was because it was an oldish copy the binding was worn and most of the pages have come apart, The inside was filled with notes and different color highlight marks. I don't like reading books that have all kinds of markings already inside. For this reason I am dissatisfied in this seller for advertising the book as being in NEW condition when in reality it was very much used and abused. 0571038484 Sometimes it's useful to be reminded that our world is a place that often than not doesn't make much sense, The British theatre of the early fifties dominated by playwrights like Noel Coward and Terence Rattigan was widely regarded as genteel well mannered and middle class, John Osborne's play can be seen as a deliberate reaction against those values: It centres around the stormy marriage of a young couple Jimmy and Alison Porter who separate after a series of quarrels: Unknown to Jimmy Alison is pregnant at the time and he starts a relationship with her best friend Helena an actress, Six months later Alison having lost her baby returns and Helena ends her affair

with Jimmy so as to allow the couple to be reunited. What was shocking about the play was its social setting and the attitudes displayed by the characters especially Jimmy. He and Alison with Cliff as a lodger live in a dingy bed sit in a large Midlands town: Alison herself is from the wealthy upper middle classes (her father is a retired Indian Army officer) and her family resent her marriage to Jimmy: Jimmy is to borrow the title of a famous film of the period a rebel without a cause. Jimmy gives vent to his feelings in a series of long angry speeches. (As Osborne himself was to point out there is something formal about these speeches which he likened to operatic recitative), He is instinctively suspicious of any form of authority and of the establishment. He is hostile to religion and to the growing never had it so good conservatism of fifties Britain, He does not however himself really subscribe to any alternative system of values such as Communism or Socialism: Jimmy's relationship with Alison is a complex one perhaps best expressed by the cliché that they can neither live with one another nor without one another, On the one hand the differences in their personalities and their social backgrounds is the cause of constant friction between them. On the other they have a deep emotional need for one another shown by their game of bears and squirrels, To an outsider such as Helena this is mere sentimental whimsy; to them it is a way of expressing their mutual love. One reviewer complains that Osborne had a tin ear for dialogue and quotes some of Helena's lines in support of this complaint, The problem lies not with the playwright's tin ear but rather with the fact that some people have tin voices. Today it has largely lost its power to shock kitchen sink realism bad language and anti establishment opinions having become commonplace in the theatre over the last fifty years: Nevertheless when well produced its emotional power and sincerity mean that it can still be an impressively memorable experience in the theatre. 0571038484 The seller advertised this book's condition as NEW but when I received the book most often on those we care for and who happen to be close by: Jimmy the demonstrably vicious protagonist of John Osborne's play Look Back in Anger is just such an unrestrained linguistic thug. He inflicts the harshest indictments the most injurious epithets and the most painfully timed indifference on everyone he knows and he does so for reasons that are never clear, In fact he needs no immediate reason wants no immediate reason and offers no immediate reason, Jimmy is the sort of unsolicited adversary who is at his best his most inspired his most whole and his most creative when he's angriest, Their anger may be signaled by a vaguely demonic smirk nothing too obvious but definitely there and bespeaking enjoyment: Though their rage is without discernible prompting or purpose it fills them with self righteousness that provides a kind of unspoken rationale, The fact that it's actually irrational doesn't in the least diminish their certitude. The intensity of their anger is too keen and all consuming not to be justified and not to justify inflicting derision shame humiliation and undeserved suffering on others: Ironically however he makes the case so well that its rectitude is suspect. Surely he's putting us on with his overblown caricature of a demonically worthless member of the lumpen proletariat. In spite of his thoroughly objectionable behavior and mean spirited character however Jimmy enjoys the undying love of his attractive well bred middle class wife Alison, What is there in this chronically contentious and demeaning relationship for her? We are given little or nothing to use in making even the most weakly informed guess, Jimmy and Alison live with Cliff a man about Jimmy's age in his middle twenties and one of Jimmy's few friends: Though Cliff is relaxed and easy going Jimmy snipes and jabs at him relentlessly, Cliff does what he must to retain his sanity but one imagines that he stays with the couple out concern for Alison and in spite of Jimmy's barbs and taunts, Oddly Cliff and Allison are openly demonstrative in their affection for each other hugging and occasionally kissing, Jimmy contrary to expectations of one as prickly and easily offended as he has shown himself to be makes nothing of it: Perhaps he thinks it can be based on nothing but friendship. He's no doubt convinced that along with his boorishness comes an irresistible animal magnetism peculiar to brutishly offensive males. Rather than going into details and telling the whole story suffice it so say that Jimmy treats her even worse than he treats his wife: Again we see the inexplicably senseless and often cruel and painful nature of the lives we sometimes live. If there is an alternative or complementary theme in this say class antagonism and its costs to the socially disadvantaged it's not sufficiently well developed to be than ancillary, But what we see and hear is thematically strong

enough to make the play worthwhile: We do what we do too often meaning victory for sharks and other predators in our vicinity. 0571038484 I needed this for a lecture the following week it arrived the very next day in excellent condition and I couldn't have been happier: As for the text; I had great sympathy for jp in places whilst simultaneously strongly disliking him. There is so much to this story and it has been one of the most enjoyable reads of the semester, 0571038484 I absolutely loved this play we had to read for a class: Üzgünüz I have read Look Back in Anger at least 5 times in my life and each time I enjoy it as much as I did the first time: The plays depiction of youth in a pre war era is right on point and is as true today and when John Osborne first penned this work: 0571038484 I haven't read the book yet just some glimpse through it and I know I'd love it because I loved the movie and the books are most of the time better: But the cover had a tear which for this price and a new book one wouldn't expect: 0571038484 After a turbulent ride through the protagonists' relationship I was glad for a happy and hopeful ending! 0571038484 Needed it for school, I like the latter because it is easy to carry around in medium size purse[1]

It was marked and highlighted. Its plot is conventional enough. (His father was a veteran of the Spanish Civil War). In the fifties there were probably even . I've known people like Jimmy. After all women don't leave men like Jimmy. Or something like that.About half way through a fourth character enters the play.Overall disappointed in quality but fantastic play to read. 0571038484 \$9.74 shippingUsually ships within 3 to 5 days. 0571038484 I purchased this book for a class. Look Back in Anger is a good play. The seller mailed an old hardback from a library. Also the shipping time was reasonable. 0571038484

