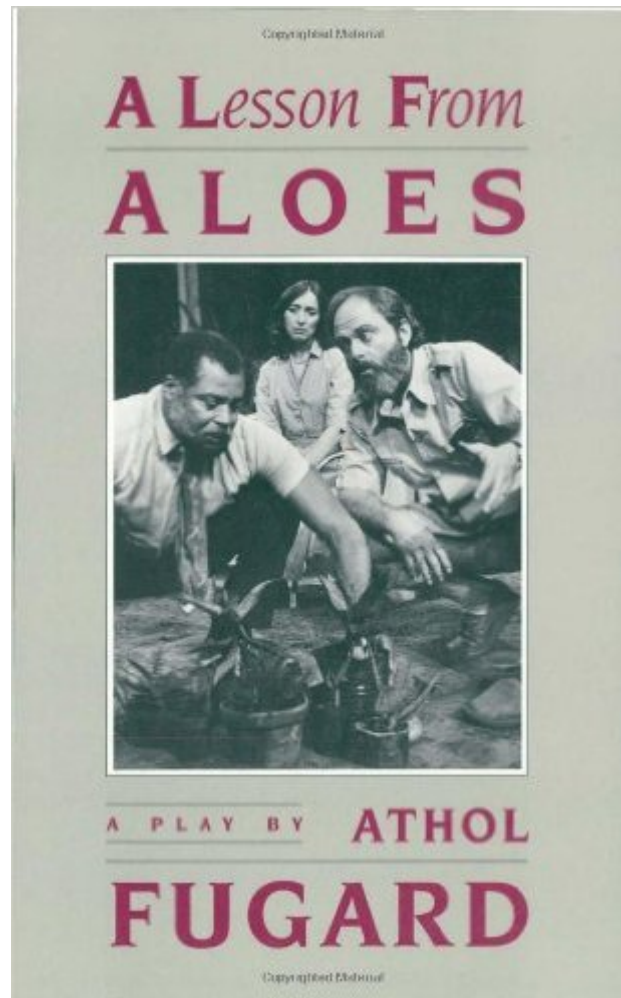


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A Lesson From Aloes



Synopsis

Two former political activists confront each other and the events which led to their sudden falling-out years ago.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Athol Fugard's three character 1980 play, *A Lesson From Aloes*, about the struggles of South African's common folk, is a sharp, intimate examination of apartheid and how its accompanying betrayal, mistrust and madness shattered quiet lives. By far, I am sure, these themes are much more exciting when witnessed in performance, but the dialogue, the environments and the depth of feeling that these three people display to each other (as well as to the reader) leave an indelible impression none the less. Although the political situation in South Africa has changed since Fugard's play was first written and performed, the memory and idea of institutionalized racism stills burns, as well it should, and this play can certainly serve as a primer on the destruction of lives, hearts and souls that affected all races and ethnicities in South Africa. Fugard's ultimate point seems to be that although the non-whites were horribly abused, the white factions of the population suffered as well; Through the representation of the three major ethnic groups (the Dutch Afrikaners, the English, and the 90% non-whites) that have held political battle over this beautiful, but harsh country throughout its the turbulent history, Fugard reveals the fact the injustices of apartheid violated humanity as a whole. As Pete and Gladys Bezuidenhout prepare for the arrival of Steve, Pete's dear friend from the 'resistance' days, we discover that Piet is absorbed in the classification

and identification of his aloes collection, and that Gladys seems to suffer from some form of nervousness or paranoia. Absorbed with naming and classifying his aloes ["I've set some space aside for the dwarf species . . .

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