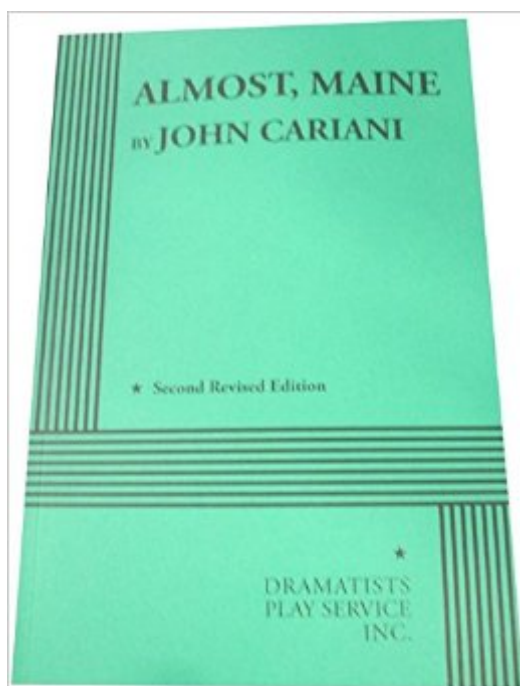


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Almost, Maine (second Revised Edition)



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So, it seems that John Cariani is one of the funniest, entertaining and endearing playwrights on the planet. Every word, every absurd twist of this comedy is so pure, so heartfelt, that reading it was like reconnecting with an old friend. It is beautifully written. So sweet and romantic, it is guaranteed to melt even the iciest of hearts. I fell in love with it after the second scene, "Her Heart," when my jaw dropped and my eyes welled with tears. It is so unique that the closest comparison I can come up with is perhaps a frost-bitten version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It has all of the magic and fantasy of Shakespeare's romp, but it's fresh and delightful setting in the Great Northern state makes it one-of-a-kind and surprising more romantic. The scenic demands are terrifically flexible, making it perfect for either a black box with a couple of benches or a lush production. The very natural and effective dialogue makes it so completely modern, without placing it in any one time period. In five or ten years, the messages and humor will still play to audiences without seeming dated, jaded or political. After reading it, I knew my theater had to perform it! Our actors fell in love with the characters. Our audiences fell in love with the material. Even in the heat of July in the great state of Tennessee with a broken air-conditioner, our actors sweating profusely while wearing winter coats and our audiences fanning like crazy...the audience STILL doubled each weekend from the previous weekend, ending in sold out houses! A fantastic read, but also an amazing piece to perform. One more word of advice: if you are producing it...TRUST the playwright, his detailed notes are more than suggestions, they are a blueprint. This man knows comedy.

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