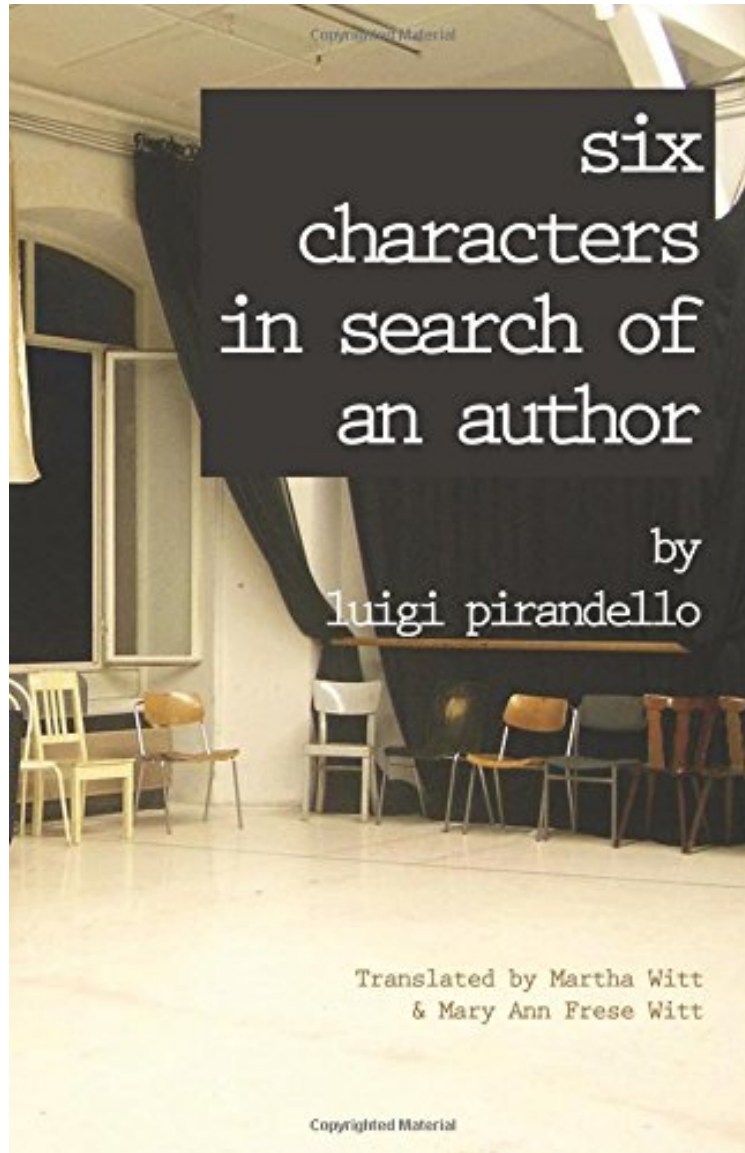


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Six Characters in Search of an Author (Renaissance Modern Plays)

Luigi Pirandello

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Luigi Pirandello : Six Characters in Search of an Author (Renaissance Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Six Characters in Search of an Author (Renaissance Modern Plays):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reason to revisit Pirandello- very good translation By Virginia Freedman A richly absurd and emotionally effective translation of Pirandello's intellectual play. The play begins with an acting company rehearsing a play by Pirandello. Then the acting company is interrupted by six characters who are

in search of an author to put into words their tragic story. The play deals with such philosophical issues of reality vs. subjectivity and an author's choices in writing but this translation keeps these issues lively and entertaining.

Presented here for the first time together, and many for the first time in English, are the writings that formed the genesis of "Six Characters in Search of an Author," along with a new translation of the theater masterpiece itself by Martha Witt and Mary Ann Frese Witt. Although Pirandello's best-known play is now considered a revolutionary modernist work, it did not begin as avant-garde art, but rather in the musings of a relatively unknown Sicilian living in Rome. The writings included in this volume display its genesis. The idea of characters as living beings in dialogue with their author first appears as a major theme in a short story titled *Characters*, published in 1906. Pirandello did not include it in any of his collections of short stories, and it has not previously been translated into English. The interaction between characters demanding to live in writing and an author who rejects them would be developed in Pirandello's 1911 story *The Tragedy of a Character*. In 1925, Pirandello conceived the idea of writing a novel about an author who rejects the characters who come to him begging to be put into a novel, and in a July 1917 letter to his son, he gives the novel a title: "Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore: Romanzo da fare" ("Six Characters in Search of an Author: A Novel to Be Made"). In this volume Martha Witt and Mary Ann Frese Witt provide all these materials for a complete appreciation of this masterwork. Wonderfully fresh and readable, consistent as well as fluid, sensitive to the flows of the original language and yet smooth and precise, this new translation succeeds in bringing Pirandello's masterpiece to life once again. The introduction brilliantly captures the playwright's sense of humanity's unshakeable decency and moral dilemmas; the addition of a previously untranslated short story, *Characters*, enlightens the play. English-speaking readers can now appreciate to the fullest the creative energy of a twentieth-century literary genius. Valeria Finucci, Professor of Italian Theater Studies, Duke University

About the Author Luigi Pirandello, playwright, poet, novelist and short-story writer, was born in Kaos, near Agrigento, Sicily on June 28, 1867. His works comprise several novels, hundreds of short stories and about forty plays, the most famous of them, "Six Characters in Search of an Author." He is generally regarded as a precursor of the Theatre of the Absurd, based on his audacious experimentation and attempts to bring down the theater's fourth wall. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1934 for his bold and brilliant renovation of the drama and the stage. He, however, remarked, I would gladly believe that this Prize was given not so much to the virtuosity of a writer, which is always negligible, but to the human sincerity of my work. He died in Rome on December 10, 1936.