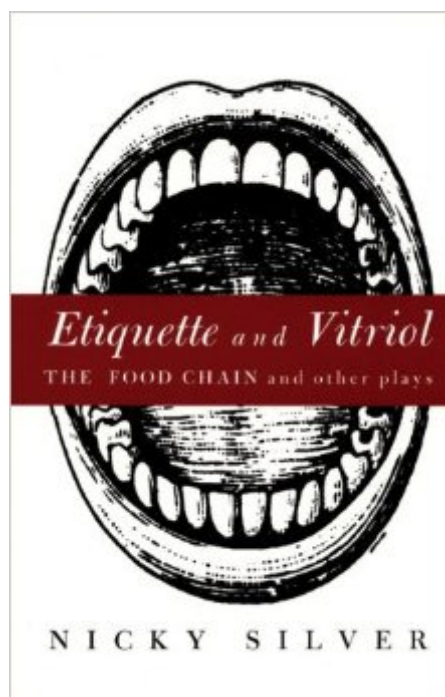


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Etiquette And Vitriol: The Food Chain And Other Plays



Synopsis

The first play collection by a young master of razor-sharp wit and black humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here are some of silver's early works that got him where he is today....and some that didn't. He admits that he is most known for 'the food chain' and 'pterodactyls' but he also included 'free will and wanton lust' and 'fat men in skirts.' All of the plays are well written and entertaining in the same envelope pushing way. Some are more successful than others. There's a reason he's most known for 'the food chain' as it's the most easily digestible piece of frivolity here. The other plays come with some baggage that will affect the ability for audiences to handle them. 'Pterodactyls' is about the breaking down of a yuppie family through absurdism and magical realism. While the play is knowing and wry about its subject, the subject of aids seems to be merely a means to an end for a certain part of the family. When discussing the play in the foreword, he mentions that he includes the ailment as means to talk about those who have been ignored and marginalized by society. I wouldn't say he accomplishes that exactly. He brought that up because he was once asked in a talk back whether the play is about aids. He was rather defensive, in my opinion, saying his play is about a lot of things and it's very limiting to think that way. So basically, the answer is no. 'Free will and wanton lust' is also about a fractured family and the reasons for it. It's meant to be an exercise in violent juxtaposition with the worlds of coward and Brecht. This play plays really gets into the mind of the characters' in the second act. The first two scenes are 9 & 1/2 page monologues. In addition,

the play ends in a uniquely demented silver fashion. 'Fat men in skirts' is about a family going insane after surviving a plane crash and resorting to cannibalism to survive.

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