

Six Characters In Search Of An Author

[music: *Claire De Lune* by *Claude Debussy*]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English with a **pinch of** higher-level language for you to learn. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

In this episode, we're discussing the **intriguing play** *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, one of the most famous works of *Luigi Pirandello*. We'll get to know about the **playwright**, the **plot**, the concepts behind the story, some **quotations** from the play, and so much more. So, sit back and enjoy.

[Author]

Luigi Pirandello was an Italian playwright, novelist, and short-story writer who lived from 1867 to 1936. He is considered one of the most **influential** playwrights of the 20th century. He is known for his work in the *Theater of the Absurd* genre, where he explored the complexities of the human condition through **avant-garde** styles. *Pirandello* was awarded the *Nobel prize in Literature* in 1934.

[Plot]

The play tells the story of six characters who appear in the **rehearsal** room of a theater and explain that they are **abandoned** by their author and are seeking a new playwright to bring their story to life. The characters, who are a family **by the way**, are hurt by personal and emotional issues that they need to **resolve**. The director and actors are initially shocked and **skeptical**, but as the characters' story **unfolds**, they begin to change their minds to consider the characters' offer.

[Concepts]

One of the main concepts of this play is the idea of reality and **illusion**. The idea that characters in a work of fiction can exist outside of the text and have their own stories to tell. At some points, it even raises the question if this fiction could be even more important than the reality. This is shown through the characters' arguments with the director and his actors, and how these fictional characters think they are more believable than the actors.

The play also addresses the nature of art and the role of the artist in creating it. It explores the concept of the author as a god-like **figure** who has control over the characters' lives and their stories.

[Quotes]

Here are a few quotes from the play that give you an idea of the story, its concepts, and the style of *Pirandello*:

- “*When a character is born, he at once **acquires** such an independence, even of his own author, that he can be imagined by everybody even in many other situations where the author never dreamed of placing him; and so he acquires for himself a meaning which the author never thought of giving him.*”
- “*Life is full of strange absurdities, which, strangely enough, do not even need to appear **plausible**, since they are true.*”
- “*We all have a world of things inside ourselves and each one of us has his own private world. How can we understand each other if the words I use have the sense and the value that I expect them to have, but whoever is listening to me inevitably thinks that those same words have a different sense and value, because of the private world he has inside himself, too.*”

[Reviews]

[music: *Gymnopédie No. 1* by Erik Satie]

Six Characters in Search of an Author has been the subject of numerous reviews. The play received **mixed** reviews upon its **initial** performance, with some **critics** claiming it was too experimental and confusing. However, in the years that followed, it has been **hailed** as a **masterpiece**. *The New York Times* called it a "brilliant and **haunting** play". Also, *The Guardian* described it as "a masterpiece of modernist drama." The play has been adapted for film and television, and its influence can be seen in the works of many **contemporary** playwrights.

[Other Books]

If you enjoy *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, I'd also recommend **checking out** some of *Luigi Pirandello's* other works, such as *Henry IV*, which also explores themes of identity and reality, or *The Late Mattia Pascal*, a novel about a man who fakes his own death and starts a new identity.

[Closing]

And that brings us to an end. *Six Characters in Search of an Author* is a complex and **thought-provoking** play that explores the complex relationship between fiction and reality. It is a **must-read** for anyone interested in the *Theater of the Absurd* or exploring the complexities of the human condition through literature. I hope you keep **turning the page** with *nomadamin*, of course while improving your English. Thank you for **tuning in**. Until next time, live your own reality!

Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something
intriguing: fascinating, interesting
play: a dramatic work for the stage or to be broadcast
playwright: a person who writes plays
plot: the main events of a play, novel, film, or similar work
quotations: a group of words taken from a text or speech
influential: having great influence on someone or something, powerful
absurd: wildly unreasonable, illogical
avant-garde: new and experimental ideas and methods in art, music, or literature
rehearsal: a practice or trial performance of a play or other work
to abandon: to leave
by the way: incidentally
to resolve: to find a solution, to solve
skeptical: having doubts, doubtful
to unfold: to gradually develop or be revealed
illusion: an idea or belief that is not true
figure: a person
to acquire: to get or obtain something
plausible: believable, apparently reasonable
mixed: different, varied
initial: first, early
critic: a person who judges artistic works
to hail: to praise, to admire
masterpiece: a work of great artistry
haunting: beautiful, but in a sad way that often cannot be forgotten
contemporary: modern, present
to check out: to look at someone or something because they are interesting
thought-provoking: making you think a lot about a subject
must-read: a piece of writing that should or must be read
to turn the page: to continue to the next page in a book
to tune in: to listen to a radio program or watch a television program