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## Necessary Targets: A Story of Women and War

*Eve Ensler*

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FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE FAGINA MONOLOGUES

# NECESSARY TARGETS

EVE ENSLER



A STORY OF WOMEN AND WAR

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**Eve Ensler : Necessary Targets: A Story of Women and War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Necessary Targets: A Story of Women and War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous. And, oh so true. Want to ...By Patricia RogersFabulous. And, oh so true. Want to produce this as a Readers Theater production.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Necessary TargetsBy Jeannette E. HannaExcellently written with compassion and descriptive language. While you were reading, you could see the settings and know the faces and believe you were there. Gifted writer.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not My ThingBy CrusteeI was required to read this play for a college

course on Psychological Trauma. I was not a fan. I think that its purpose was to be shocking, however it failed to shock me. I feel like perhaps Ensler watered it down too much?

In her first new work since *The Vagina Monologues*, her Obie Award-winning smash hit, Eve Ensler tells the story of two American women, a Park Avenue psychiatrist and a human rights worker, who go to Bosnia to help women confront their memories of war and emerge deeply changed themselves. *Necessary Targets* is a groundbreaking play about women and war; about the violence of dark memories and the enduring resilience of the human spirit. Melissa, an ambitious young writer, and J.S., a successful but unsatisfied middle-aged psychiatrist, have nothing in common beyond the methods they have been taught to distance themselves from other people. As J.S. begins to feel compassion for the women whose tragedies she has been sent to expose, she turns on Melissa, who finds safety in control. In an unexpected moment of revelation, J.S. and the women she is supposedly treating find a common ground, a place to be taught and a place to learn. *Necessary Targets* has been staged in New York by Meryl Streep, Anjelica Huston, and Calista Flockhart, and performed in Sarajevo with Glenn Close and Marisa Tomei. From the Trade Paperback edition.

From Publishers Weekly  
Ensler's sober new play may seem like an unexpected astringent after her celebrity-studded performance piece and book, *The Vagina Monologues*, an alternately piercing and raucous series of vignettes that dramatize women's conflicts over body image and sexuality that continues to be performed around the country. Here, Ensler's major theme is the lingering effects of violence against women. Two American women--a well-heeled New York psychiatrist and her younger colleague--travel to a refugee camp intending to help Bosnian women "tell their stories" after the brutal war in Yugoslavia. Inexperienced in the field, the doctor learns to stop patronizing and start listening, while her more brittle companion retreats into therapeutic jargon. "When we think of war, we think of it as something that happens to men in fields or jungles," says the award-winning playwright in her introduction. "But after the bombing, after the snipers, that's when the real war begins." Though deeply political, Ensler's work has no ideological axes to grind, nor does it linger sensationally on rape stories. Spare, self-reflexive and powerful, the play zeroes in on the real postwar conflict: the refugees' contempt for bland, professional talk therapy--and their overwhelming need, at the same time, for help in absorbing the damages. Agent, Charlotte Sheedy. (Feb. 2) Forecast: Though Ensler's new subject matter is darker and less familiar to American women than that of *The Vagina Monologues* (which sold more than 60,000 copies), Ensler knows her audience and how to attract attention (she appeared on Oprah last fall). Her five-city tour and print campaign targeting college newspapers, in addition to the play's opening in New York in March 2001, will ensure that her devotees take notice. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal  
Playwright and activist Ensler has won numerous awards for her work, including the 1997 Obie Award for her play, *The Vagina Monologues*, and a Guggenheim in 1999. Here she presents a moving play that puts faces on the mind-numbing statistics of often-forgotten war victims. Women who have survived the trauma of rape, depression, poverty, homelessness, and starvation only to be forgotten by most of the world in the aftermath of war. *Necessary Targets* is the story of two American women. One a Park Avenue psychiatrist and the other an international activist who travel to Bosnia to help women refugees deal with their memories of war and come home irrevocably changed themselves. Performed by all-star casts from New York to Sarajevo, *Necessary Targets* tells an important story of survival and coping that will move readers and audiences alike. Recommended for academic and public libraries. [Villard will also be releasing a special hardcover edition of *The Vagina Monologues* in February; both books were previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 10/1/00. DEd.] DLaura A. Ewald, Murray State Univ. Lib., K.-DLaura A. Ewald, Murray State Univ. Lib., KS Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Eve Ensler can soar to Rabelaisian heights or move us with quiet compassion. . . . She may not save the world, but what other playwrights even think of trying?" *Time* "A journey into the very human stories behind the headlines, *Necessary Targets* lets us peer beneath the head scarves of women whom we recognize as our friends, sisters, and daughters. A brave, powerful, and crucial testimony against violence aimed at women as an act of war." *Meryl Streep* From the Trade Paperback edition.