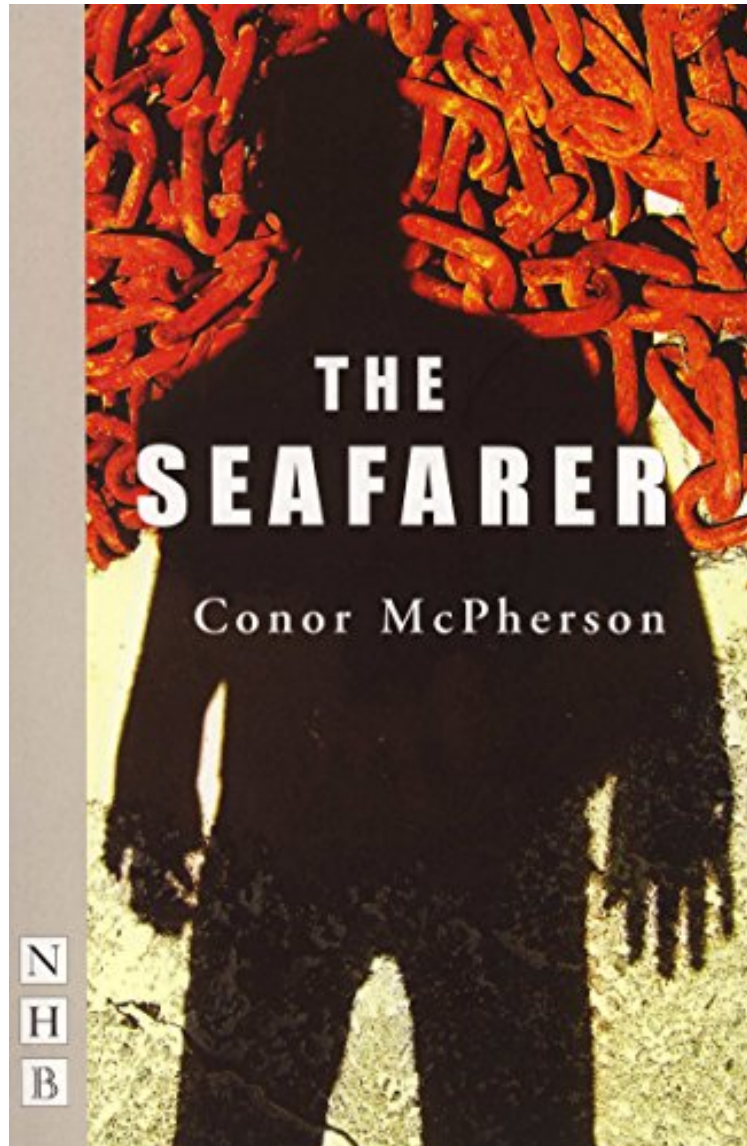


(Download) The Seafarer (NHB Modern Plays)

The Seafarer (NHB Modern Plays)

Conor McPherson

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Conor McPherson : The Seafarer (NHB Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Seafarer (NHB Modern Plays):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AN EXTRAORDINARY WORK By fcb In the single shabby setting of the flat of a feisty, blind, old Irishman living in the North side of Dublin, Conor McPherson has crafted a rollicking, boisterous, comic and tragic tale of brotherhood, friendship, and salvation, evolving as four old friends spend a drunken Christmas Eve together (Act I) and play cards with the Devil (in human form - and also susceptible to drunkenness) for the stakes of a human soul (Act II). 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful

Ensemble Piece
By John F. Rooney
The living rooms in "The Homecoming" by Harold Pinter, "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" by Martin McDonagh, and in this play, "The Seafarer" by Conor McPherson are as scroungy, grotty, and disreputable as the males who inhabit these dumpy premises. The house is north of Dublin. Some plays can be read and enjoyed as a partial substitute for seeing a live performance, but after reading this one, I realize it is essential to see a live presentation to get the full import of this play. It is an actor's dream for the current five man ensemble on Broadway because the stage business is as powerful as the lines. There is a Faustian pact element to the story. The central focus is on Sharky, a loser, who lives with his blind brother. Two visitors and a mysterious fifth man, Mr. Lockhart, gather together Christmas Eve day and night and get extremely drunk. They play cards, money is lost, and the story opens up to the audience. Some of this is familiar territory, and the plot is not too complicated. Lockhart probably has the best lines, but the other characters would be a joy to watch. There is great comedy here along with the more serious stuff. The characters are beautifully crafted, and they are a decidedly odd bunch. Each one a piece of work in his own peculiar way. As in most plays, secrets from the past are unearthed and become grist for the dramatist's mill. When Lockhart and Sharky are alone, Lockhart reminds him of a card game they had in the past. For these two and the audience the game of cards becomes a transforming experience. The play is well worth a read but try to see it on stage if at all possible. It would make a great movie or television play, but, I think, the audience would be limited.
3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A fun read of a hot play
By Lectrice
I bought this because the Irish brogues were sometimes a little hard to understand on-stage, plus I wanted to relive that delicious second-act card game again (the only way to do that with a play is to read the script). It's great seeing how the actors brought scenes and words to life. I've already loaned this book to others who saw the play before it closed on Broadway this month.

A breathtaking supernatural play from the author of *The Weir*. It's Christmas Eve and Sharky has returned to Dublin to look after his irascible, ageing brother who's recently gone blind. Old drinking buddies Ivan and Nicky are holed up at the house too, hoping to play some cards. But with the arrival of a stranger from the distant past, the stakes are raised ever higher. In fact, Sharky may be playing for his very soul. 'a blistering emotional punch... *The Seafarer* first ambushes you and then haunts you for days afterwards' - *Time Out* 'sparkling and suspenseful... McPherson is a born yarn-spinner' - *Guardian* 'McPherson's new play is one of his most succinct and startling, and the funniest to date... what he creates is apparently simple, but daring and memorable. He sends his characters off on benders, and they bump into the infinite' - *Observer* 'a realistic fantasy, a wide-awake nightmare. The writing is poetic, brutal, athletic, hilarious' - *Sunday Times*

"His sentences are better, his sentiments more developed than many Booker Prizewinners. He is terrific'
Observer"
About the Author
Conor McPherson was born in 1971 in Dublin. His breakthrough came with *This Lime Tree Bower* at the Bush, followed by *The Weir* at the Royal Court, which went on to run for two years in the West End, transferring to Broadway. There followed *Dublin Carol*, *Port Authority* and *Shining City* on stage, and three films: *I Went Down*, *Saltwater* and *The Actors*. All McPherson's work is published by NHB.