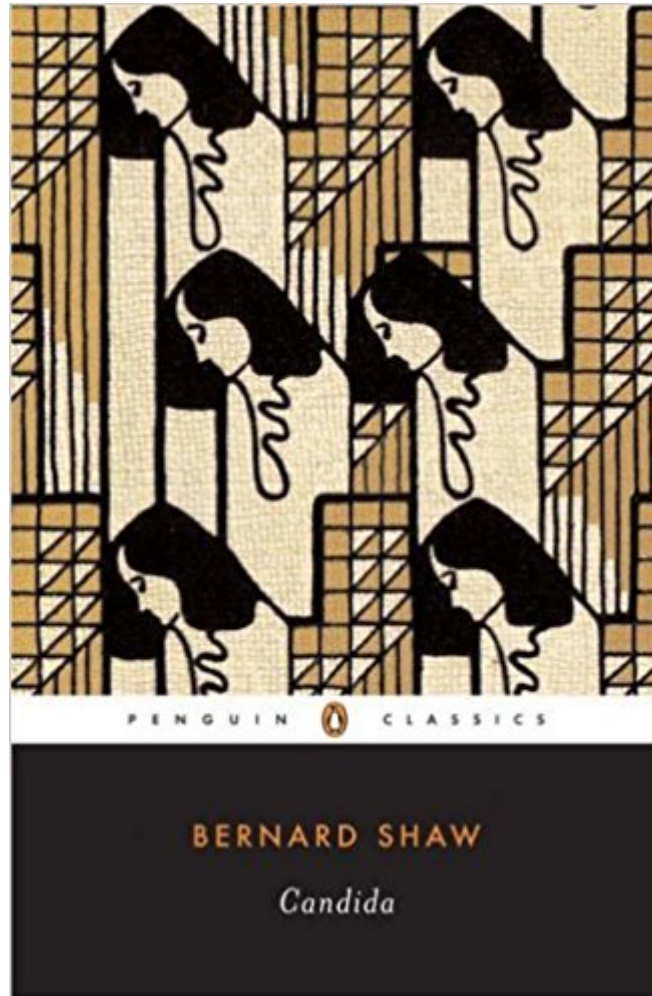




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# Candida (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Candida centers on a romantic triangle and parodies courtly love and the domestic drama of Ibsen. It abounds with classical allusions, the fervor of a religious revival, and poetic inspiration and aspirations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Shaw's warm and witty play challenged conventional wisdom about relationships between the sexes. A beautiful wife must choose between the two men who love her. A Court Theatre Company co-production. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring Tom Amandes, Christopher Cartmill, Rebecca MacLean, David New, Nicholas Rudall and JoBeth Williams. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), one of the most prolific writers of the modern theater, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1925.

The play Candida is witty and engrossing - and in its day was quite the scandalous amusement. I had never read George Bernard Shaw before. My only awareness of his works had been watching 'My Fair Lady' - which is based on his play Pygmalion. I am impressed. His dialogue kept me reading. It flowed flawlessly. His characters are believable and endearing. Candida's father is

amusing. The side characters were not irrelevant - they added to the storyline. I really enjoyed this play, enough to download every play George Bernard Shaw wrote available on Kindle. The banter between Candida and Eugene is flavorful. I appreciate her wise thinking. He was head over heels for her, and she was flattered by the attention. She enjoyed his company, but she knew their age variance really did make a difference. I especially thought it poignant that she told him to repeat after her "When I am 30- she will be 45. When I am 60 she will be 75." Eugene was a dreamer and held a romanticized view of life, without considering all consequences. He was raised affluent, and in a sense looked down on Candida and her husband, a Christian clergyman. He didn't mean to, honestly, in my opinion. He was just raised with money and servants, and didn't believe that Candida should do household chores. But to me, Candida enjoyed doing the chores. She is a nurturer. She enjoys feeling needed. Her husband does not realize what he has in her. He doesn't fathom ever being without her; maybe he takes for granted that she will always be there. Candida has a deep respect for her husband. Although I believe he was not set for confrontation. It was easier for him to spend time away speaking than face 'feelings' at home. I also believe that sometimes he felt it was his duty to honor the speaking engagements, and that took its toll on home life. I could be completely wrong on my analysis of Candida... but it's what I took from it. Read it and see what YOU take from it. Strongly recommended. \*\*Side comment\*\* The next read after Candida should be "How He Lied To Her Husband" as it ties into Candida.

The book was basically just a printed out version of a PDF copy of the play. There was still a header at the top of every page from the original PDF, as well as a disclaimer at the beginning of the play that was clearly meant for the online version of the play. Also, the formatting was confusing and distracting to read.

Bought for a class assignment

Met my need.

I would recommend this to anyone. There were no problems with shipping. The product arrived on time and as stated.

I bought this for the sole purpose of reading it for a book club. I was, of course, hoping that it would be a good read as well. My best review of it is that I was just happy it was short. Perhaps I am a

neanderthal and this is some great masterpiece that I am missing out on entirely, but there you have it.

Written in 1894 and published as part of "Plays Pleasant" in 1898, "Candida" is one of Shaw's earliest plays, although it wasn't performed until a decade after he wrote it. It is a comedy involving that oldest of dramas: a love triangle. Morell and his wife, Candida, are a seemingly contented married couple unsettled by the arrival of Morrell's protégé, who becomes a competitor for Candida's affections. Although Shaw skirts the issue of actual adultery, the unconcealed duel between Morrell and the young Eugene Marchbanks over the trophy of Candida is, well, awkward. And adding to the discomfort is the manner in which Candida serves as a mother-figure to both Morrell and Marchbanks, each of whom is described as "a great baby" during the course of the play. "You are my wife, my mother, my sisters: you are the sum of all loving care to me," exclaims Morell. (Paging Dr. Freud!) It is instructive to read "Candida" and Ibsen's "A Doll's House" back to back. Both are attacks on Victorian-era morality, but Shaw inverts Ibsen's household drama into a comedy; in fact, "A Domestic Comedy" was the original subtitle before he changed it to "A Mystery" to underscore the ambiguity of the play's ending. Shaw himself later stated, on several occasions, that "Candida" was written as "a counter blast to Ibsen's 'Doll House,' showing that in the real typical doll's house it is the man who is the doll." (Some critics think "Candida" borders on parody.) And in a 1937 theater program, he wrote, "the cards are not packed against the husband as in Ibsen's play [and] it is his wife who runs the establishment." Shaw does not see women as "the weaker sex"

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