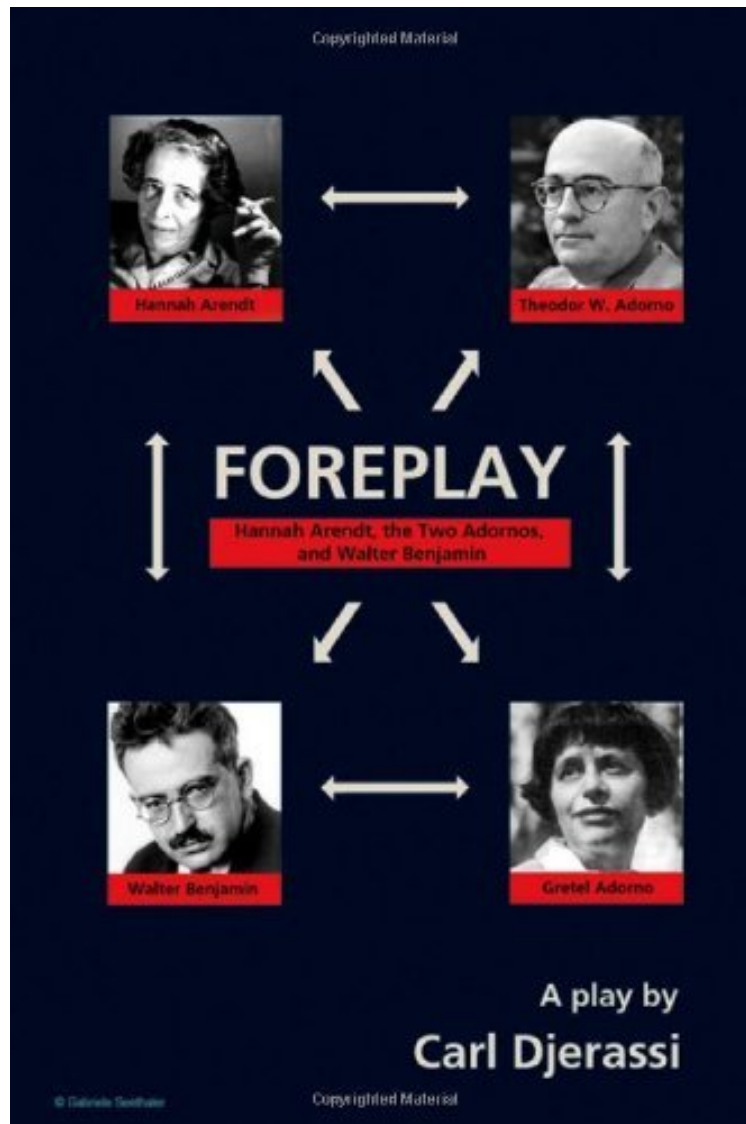


Foreplay: Hannah Arendt, the Two Adornos, and Walter Benjamin

Carl Djerassi

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Carl Djerassi : Foreplay: Hannah Arendt, the Two Adornos, and Walter Benjamin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foreplay: Hannah Arendt, the Two Adornos, and Walter Benjamin:

Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, and Theodor W. Adorno were intellectual giants of the first half of the twentieth century. The drama Foreplay explores their deeply human and psychologically intriguing private lives, focusing on

professional and personal jealousies, the mutual dislike of Theodor Adorno and Hannah Arendt, the association between Walter Benjamin and Georges Bataille, and the border between erotica and pornography. Djerassi's extensive biographical research brings to light many fascinating details revealed in the dialogues among the characters, including Adorno's obsession with his dreams, Benjamin's admiration for Franz Kafka, and the intimate correspondence between Gretel Adorno and Walter Benjamin. The introduction of a fictitious character, Fraulein X, intensifies the complex interplay among the four lead protagonists and allows for a comparison of Adorno's philandering and the similar behavior of Martin Heidegger, whose affair with Hannah Arendt is well known. Foreplay brims with intrigue and the friction created when strong personalities clash.

Idquo;Few readers have studied the canonical texts of the great author-protagonists of the Frankfurt School without the secret desire to know more about their private lives. Djerassi's historical fiction in dramatic form may come closer to the truth than any of the more empirical studies.rdquo;mdash;Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, Stanford University and the Collège de France