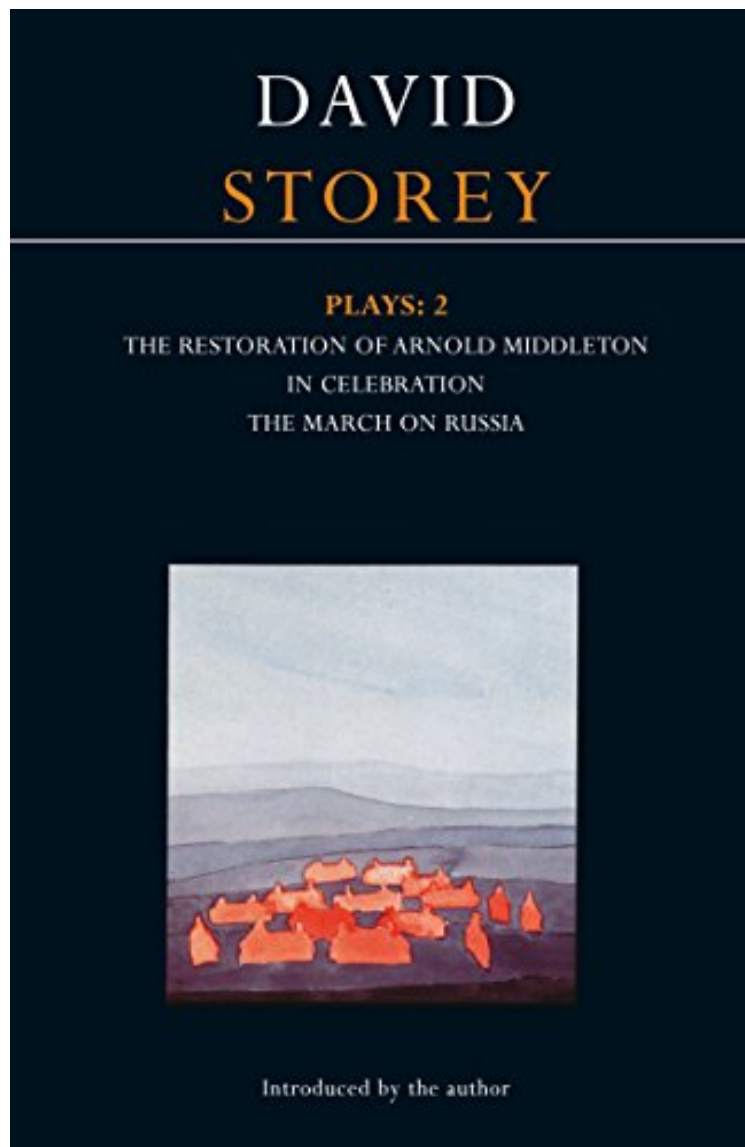


(Free) Storey Plays: 2: Restoration of Arnold Middleton; In Celebration; March on Russia: quot;Restoration of Arnold Middletonquot;; quot;In Celebration (Contemporary Dramatists)

## **Storey Plays: 2: Restoration of Arnold Middleton; In Celebration; March on Russia: quot;Restoration of Arnold Middletonquot;; quot;In Celebration (Contemporary Dramatists)**

*David Storey*

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**David Storey : Storey Plays: 2: Restoration of Arnold Middleton; In Celebration; March on Russia: quot;Restoration of Arnold Middletonquot;; quot;In Celebration (Contemporary Dramatists)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Storey Plays: 2: Restoration of Arnold

Middleton; In Celebration; March on Russia: quot;Restoration of Arnold Middletonquot;, quot;In Celebration (Contemporary Dramatists):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Classic English EccentricityBy T. Burrows"The Restoration of Arnold Middleton" is the earliest, and the best, play in this collection. In fact there was such a discrepancy of style between Middleton and the other two works that I found it hard to believe that they were written by the same man. The less exciting plays were both rather dull English family tales, full of monologues and lacking in dramatic action. The good one was written when the author was 28 and went unproduced for several years before it finally made a big splash on the stage. Storey was also a professional rugby player and is best known for his novel "This Sporting Life."Middleton is the witty and confusing story of an odd, bombastic schoolteacher who lives with his wife and her mother. His wife is at odds with the both of them, and Middleton blatantly flirts with his mother-in-law. Some of the story (and there isn't much of one) deals with a coat of armor that Middleton has brought home with him. It is a tribute to the verve of the dialogue and screwy relationships of the story that the play is fascinating in spite of its lack of a plot. A couple of other characters show up: one of Middleton's colleagues, a suave fellow named Hanson who brings along one of their young female students that he plans to bed. Middleton gives the okay to have the dirty deed done in his home, but all of the characters end up getting drunk together and behaving ridiculously, and it is unclear how things turn out. Can you imagine something like this happening these days? I can't.Middleton is blatantly jealous of his colleague's good fortune, and Mrs. Middleton is jealous of her mother for the attention she is drawing from her husband. The characters break into hilarious doggerel and make goofy comments whose meanings are hard to make out. The piece has a light, irreverent, sixties feel and seems to be influenced by the theatre of the absurd movement of the fifties. In the end there is a revelation about the main character, but this "resolution" seems more like an excuse to end the proceedings than a convincing conclusion. Despite this, the play is a classic piece of English eccentricity and remains full of lively, weird fun from beginning to end. It would be interesting to see this on stage, but it is so English that I doubt it ever gets performed in the USA.

"David Storey is a writer who genuinely extends the territory of drama" (Guardian)

From the Back Cover"The March on Russia is an elegy for the lost hopes of both our postwar liberal-left generation and the harder left one that preceded it, and for its two central characters Storey has provided some of the most true and moving moments of marital ambivalence to be seen on any stage today."--Ian Herbert, London Theatre Record