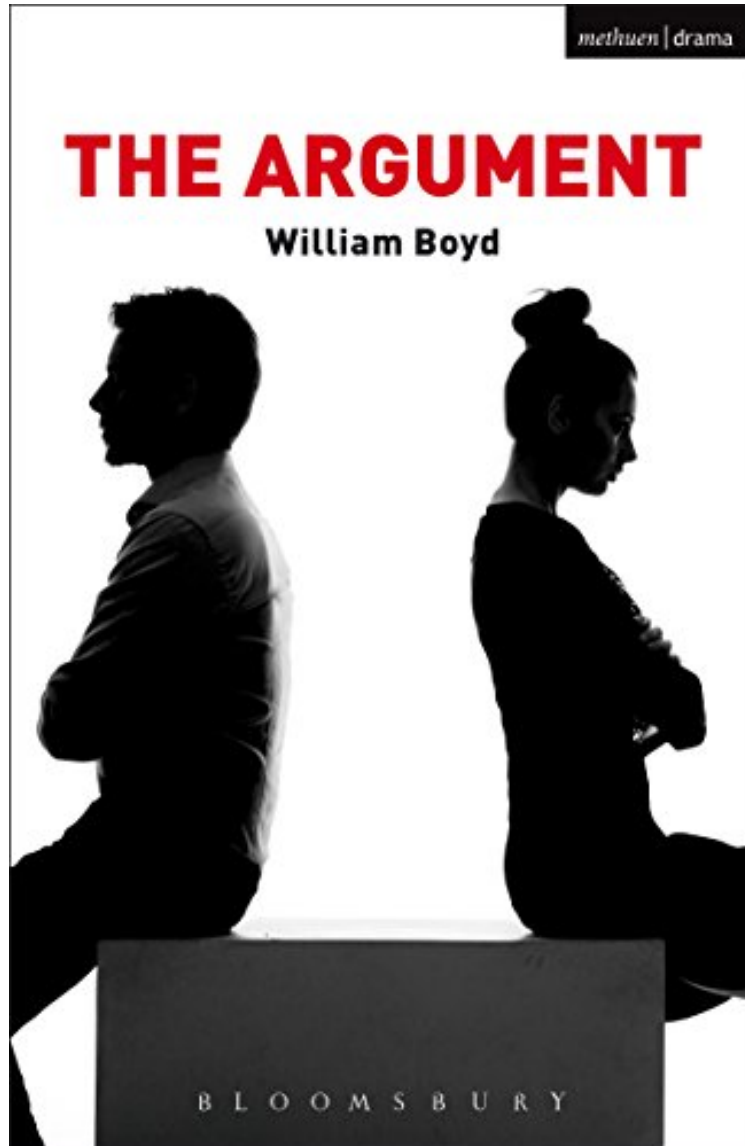


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The Argument (Modern Plays)

William Boyd

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William Boyd : The Argument (Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Argument (Modern Plays):

That's why we shout and scream at each other. Clears the air. A kind of truth begins to emerge. We see clearer. Pip and Meredith have had a bust-up. It was only about their opinion of a film, but it's led to more significant differences coming to light. Pip has been having an affair for the past three months with a young colleague at work. Meredith's

slate doesn't seem to be entirely clean either. As their families and friends become embroiled in Pip and Meredith's separation, past prejudices, harsh judgements and painful truths come to light. The arguments that ensue go beyond just being about Pip and Meredith, and what they should do about their marriage. In nine taut scenes, William Boyd explores what it is to argue with those we love - and those we should love. He looks at our propensity to judge others and our power to hurt. Alongside this, he shows how it can sometimes be the superficial problems in a relationship that keep it going. Both bleak and funny in its tone, *The Argument* offers a Strindberg-like take on human dynamics and received its world premiere at Hampstead Theatre Downstairs in March 2016.

Fascinating . . . there is real ingenuity here, and a manifest love and understanding of the Russian writer . . . Boyd ingeniously combines these two narrative strands . . . a truly Chekhovian atmosphere of rueful longing and the cruel inequality of love . . . this partnership between William Boyd and Anton Chekhov is undoubtedly blessed with both wit and moments of deeper feeling. * Daily Telegraph * The play itself is a reverent tribute to Chekhov. There is no mistaking the depth of Boyd's immersion in his work. * Evening Standard * About the Author William Boyd is the author of eleven novels including *A Good Man in Africa*, winner of the Whitbread Award and the Somerset Maugham Award; *An Ice-Cream War*, winner of the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and shortlisted for the Booker Prize; *Brazzaville Beach*, winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize; *Any Human Heart*, winner of the Prix Jean Monnet and adapted into a Channel 4 drama; *Restless*, winner of the Costa Novel of the Year, the Yorkshire Post Novel of the Year and a Richard Judy selection; *Ordinary Thunderstorms* and, most recently, the Sunday Times bestseller, *Waiting for Sunrise*. His first play, *Longing*, was an adaptation of various short stories by Chekhov and was premiered by Hampstead Theatre. William Boyd lives in London and France.