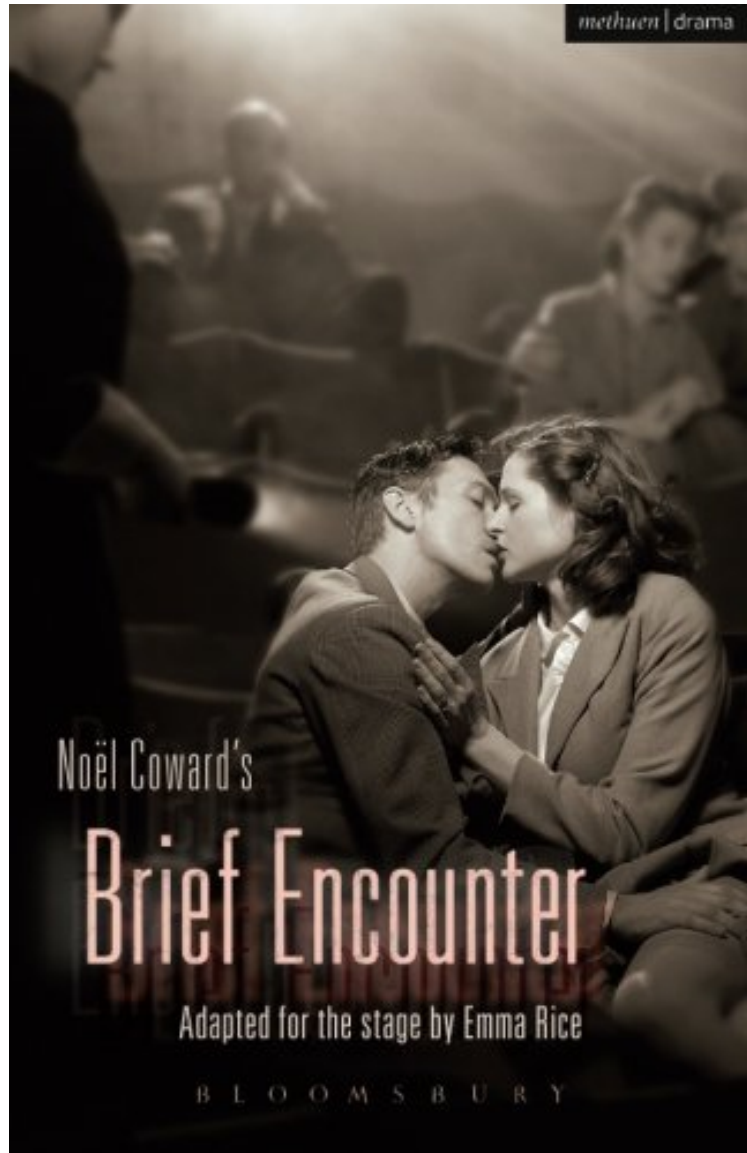


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## Brief Encounter (Modern Plays)

*Noël Coward*

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**Noël Coward : Brief Encounter (Modern Plays)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brief Encounter (Modern Plays):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous. By DJH Superb, Wonderful production. For those who love Kneehigh's work, it is Very helpful to have a written script. Wonderfully creative. Brava, Emma. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nicely done. By TravelMod I love Brief Encounter as a vintage film, and as a play in an imaginative production that I saw a couple of years ago. It's old-fashioned--how many people will choose duty and

kindness over passion? This audio rendition is rendered very well. I am a Nigel Havers fan and I thought his rendition here a little forced and not quite believable, but nevertheless enjoyable. Perhaps not the best-ever version of Brief Encounter, but quite nice to listen to. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Classic Film, Timeless Story By A Customer Move over Kate and Leo! Why go all the way to the Titanic when all the really interesting English romances occur at the Milford railway junction? "Brief Encounter" was simply meant to be a small art house film but instead it struck a certain chord in both England and America. Written by Noel Coward ("Mad Dogs and Englishmen") and directed by David Lean ("Doctor Zhivago," "Lawrence of Arabia"), the film represents the ascetic, upright, emotionally restrained lives of the people living in pre-WWII Britain (1938-1939). It concerns the doomed love affair between a married, suburban housewife, Laura, and an equally suburban and married doctor, Alec. Unlike "Madame Bovary," both characters hold no illusions: they know that they are middle-aged and unimpressive people, unable to be drawn to the extremes of emotion enough to defy society. It is a story of two undistinguished, but unhappy people who found each other but could not have each other. With its simple plot, drab setting, but intricate dialogue, it was honored with an Oscar nomination in 1947. If you just cannot refuse an art film, a classic film, or a foreign film, this screenplay deserves more than just a brief encounter.

I'm a happily married woman. Or rather I was until a few weeks ago. This is my whole world and it's enough, or rather it was until a few weeks ago. Your heart dances. The world seems strange and new. You want to laugh and skip and fall forever You are in love. You are in love with the wrong person. Laura, the respectable suburban wife, and Alec, the idealistic, married doctor, meet in a station buffet, fall passionately in love but are doomed never to find fulfilment. David Lean's iconic 1945 movie, Brief Encounter, was written by Noel Coward and was based on one of his one-act plays, Still Life, written a decade earlier. Emma Rice, Artistic Director of Kneehigh Theatre Company, has adapted this timeless tale of joy and heartache for the stage, interspersing the romantic action with nine Coward ditties.

A first-class return to romance -- Charles Spencer \* Telegraph \* A delicate, whimsical creation. Exquisite -- Ben Brantley \* New York Times \* Ms. Rice and her wonderful company have made it possible to embrace "Brief Encounter" once more with feeling... -- Ben Brantley \* New York Times \* ...a witty and sympathetic homage to Coward's unforgettable portrayal of English reserve and romance. -- Charles Spencer \* Daily Telegraph \* About the Author Noel Coward was one of Britain's most iconic playwrights, with a glittering career and innumerable hits to his name. Emma Rice is the Joint Artistic Director of Kneehigh Theatre. She has directed for Kneehigh The Red Shoes, The Wooden Frock, The Bacchae, Tristan Yseult, Cymbeline, A Matter of Life and Death, Rapunzel, Brief Encounter and Don John. Rice was nominated for the 2009 Olivier Award for Best Director for Brief Encounter.