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## By the Way, Meet Vera Stark

Lynn Nottage

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**Lynn Nottage : By the Way, Meet Vera Stark** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised By the Way, Meet Vera Stark:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. another incredible Nottage play - a 1st act comedy that evolves into 2nd act social commentaryBy Frank L. Greenagel III Lynn Nottage was born in Brooklyn in 1964. She attended Brown and then Yale. Ms. Nottage won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama in 2009 for Ruined, a play set in a war-ravaged African country. Its main characters are all survivors of rape and genital mutilation as a result of the ongoing conflicts. She won the Pulitzer again in 2017 for Sweat, making her the first woman ever to win twice in drama. Sweat takes place in

Reading, PA, and discusses the decline of the American working class (and how it has affected all races). Meet Vera Stark was finished in 2013. It is a comedy that discusses the roles of women and blacks and takes place in 1933, 1973, and 2003. The first act takes place entirely in 1933 and is the kind of screwball comedy about actors trying to get into film that evokes the very best of Noel Coward. Vera Stark (black), her friend/boss Gloria Mitchell (white), Lottie (a classically trained black actress who can't find work), and Anna Mae (a gorgeous light skinned floozy) all compete for the attention/affection of a famous foreign movie director in Act I. Act II becomes with a public academic discussion of Vera Stark's life and then cuts back and forth to her last appearance, which was on a 1973 Dick Cavett-like talk show. Issues of race and opportunity are discussed. Ms. Nottage does a wonderful job presenting the turmoil of that a talented black actress struggled with by only given rolls that perpetuated black stereotypes. Ms. Nottage also does a savage job on how modern intellectuals can discuss race and gender and be both very on and off the mark. Any further discussion of the plot, characters or other authors that discussed similar themes would give away too much. It's wonderful. Read it. See it. Share it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting By All.User.Names.Must.Be.Unique A frame tale is always sure to reel me in, but this one is different because of its social commentary on race and challenges presented to actors, and especially black actors, in the days of the depression. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant Play from Playwrighting Giant Lynn Nottage By Emma H. This play was my thesis show, and I absolutely loved it, but be warned, this printing is not the same as the final Dramatists copy used in rehearsals. This one has lines that aren't in the other edition.

"Nottage is one of our finest playwrights, a smart, empathetic, and daring storyteller who tells a story an audience won't expect." Time Out New York "Lynn Nottage's work explores depths of humanness, the overlapping complexities of race, gender, culture and history and the startling simplicity of desire with a clear tenderness, with humor, with compassion." Paula Vogel, Pulitzer Prizewinning playwright In her first new play since the critically acclaimed Ruined, Lynn Nottage examines the legacy of African Americans in Hollywood in a dramatic stylistic departure from her previous work. Fluidly incorporating film and video elements into her writing for the first time, Nottage's comedy tells the story of Vera Stark, an African American maid and budding actress who has a tangled relationship with her boss, a white Hollywood star desperately grasping to hold onto her career. Stirring audiences out of complacency by tackling racial stereotyping in the entertainment industry, Nottage highlights the paradox of black actors in 1930s Hollywood while jumping back and forward in time and location in this uniquely theatrical narrative. By the Way, Meet Vera Stark premiered in New York in 2011 and received subsequent productions at Los Angeles's Geffen Playhouse in fall 2012 and Chicago's Goodman Theatre and The Lyric Stage Company of Boston in spring 2013. Lynn Nottage's plays include the Pulitzer Prizewinning Ruined; Intimate Apparel

About the Author Lynn Nottage's new play, By the Way, Meet Vera Stark, enjoyed an extended run Off-Broadway at Second Stage Theatre (Lily Award, Drama Desk Nomination). It can be seen this upcoming season at The Geffen Playhouse and Goodman Theatre. Her Pulitzer Prize-winning play Ruined premiered at Manhattan Theatre Club and Goodman Theatre (OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Play). It subsequently toured widely throughout US regional theatres and premiered internationally at the Almeida Theatre in London. The play has since been produced throughout the world, including Cambodia, Chad, The Caribbean, The Democratic Republic of Congo, and Germany. Her other plays include Intimate Apparel (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Play); Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine (OBIE Award); Crumbs from the Table of Joy; Las Meninas; Mud, River, Stone; Porkknockers and POOF!. Nottage is the recipient of the 2010 Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award, the Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize for Outstanding New American Play (Ruined), Helen Hayes Award (Ruined), the Lee Reynolds Award, and the Jewish World Watch iWitness Award. Her other honors include the 2007 MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant, the National Black Theatre Festivals August Wilson Playwriting Award, the 2005 Guggenheim Grant for Playwriting, the 2004 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Drama, as well as fellowships from the Lucille Lortel Foundation, Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists and New York Foundation for the Arts. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, where she is currently a visiting lecturer. She is a co-founder and producer at Market Road Films LLC, a film production company. Nottage is a board member for Theatre Communications Group, BRIC Arts Media Bklyn, Donor Direct Action, The New Black Fest, Voice and Vision, and the Dramatists Guild.