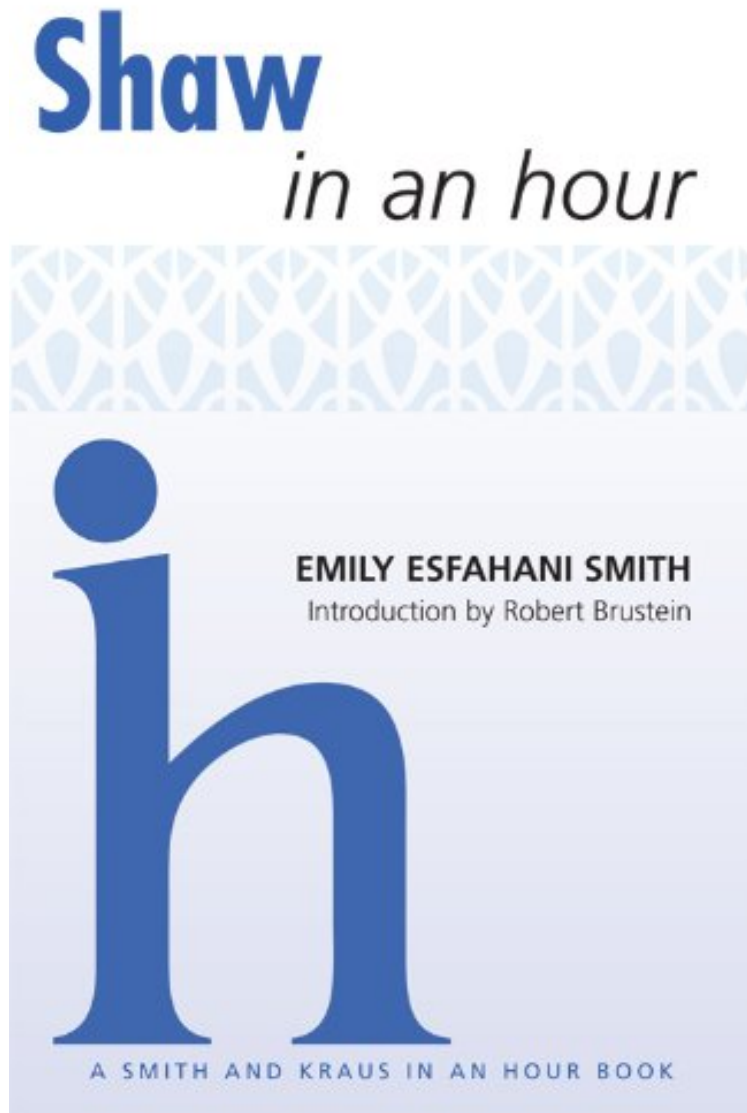


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## Shaw in an Hour (Playwrights in an Hour)

*Emily Esfahani Smith*

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**Emily Esfahani Smith : Shaw in an Hour (Playwrights in an Hour)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shaw in an Hour (Playwrights in an Hour):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love her work, new one is even better.By Joan E. SmithLove her work. Her new book is great.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informed, informative, and thoroughly 'reader friendly'By Midwest Book ReviewNewly published by Smith Kraus is a remarkable twenty-seven title series titled 'Playwrights in an Hour'. Each of these 100-page books is dedicated to a particular playwright and the series

itself is organized into four major sections: Ancient Greek, Renaissance, Modern, and Contemporary. Of special note is how each showcased playwright is presented in their historical, social, and literary context. Enhanced with an 'In a Minute' chronology giving a succinct view of global events that influenced the playwrights world view; a complete listing of the playwright's work; a list of the playwright's contemporaries in all fields; excerpts from the playwright's most significant works; an extensive bibliography grouped according to type of reader; and an index of the main essay, this outstanding, yet inexpensive series, ranging from Sophocles and Shakespeare, to Miller and A. Wilson, is informed, informative, and thoroughly 'reader friendly', making it a strongly recommended supplement for academic curriculums, community theater groups, and public library collections.

The optimistic George Bernard Shaw watched happily as the steely modern world made its debut. Shaw hoped that World War I would sweep away the flawed Victorian world and lead to significant social change and a socialist utopia. When postwar Europe gave way to totalitarianism and a second final war, Shaw's optimism waned. He would later conclude that the twentieth century was a world of great expectations cruelly disappointed. His changing sentiments were most clearly revealed in his plays: The upbeat *Pygmalion* in 1916 led to the despondent *Heartbreak House* in 1919 --- with other didactic dramas coming before, between, and after those two masterpieces. Setting the playwright in context to his personal life, social, historical and political events, other writers of influence, and more, you will quickly gain a deep understanding of Shaw and the plays he wrote. Read Shaw in an Hour and experience his plays like never before. Know the playwright, love the play! **SELLING POINTS** The book features: Shaw in an Hour, the main essay of the book Shaw in a Minute, a snapshot chronology A complete listing of Shaw's work A list of Shaw's contemporaries in all fields Excerpts from Shaw's significant works An extensive bibliography grouped according to type of reader An index of the main essay. **THE SERIES** Playwrights in an Hour is a series devoted to the most produced and studied playwrights in the English language, from the Greek masters to contemporary writers, and written by leading authorities in the field. Each short book places the playwright and his or her work in historical, social, and literary context.

Praise for Playwrights in an Hour Series, "Each compact volume supplies enough essential information to enable even the most uninformed theatergoer to hold his or her own in a postshow discussion. This new series is highly recommended for theater students, playgoers, and professionals." --Library Journal  
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"You will find great value in these attractive little volumes." --Robert Brustein, Founding Director of Yale and American Repertory Theaters  
About the Author Emily Esfahani Smith, a graduate of Dartmouth College, is a journalist and writer in Washington, D.C. Her work on cultural, political, and international affairs has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the Weekly Standard, National , The American Spectator, and the New Criterion.