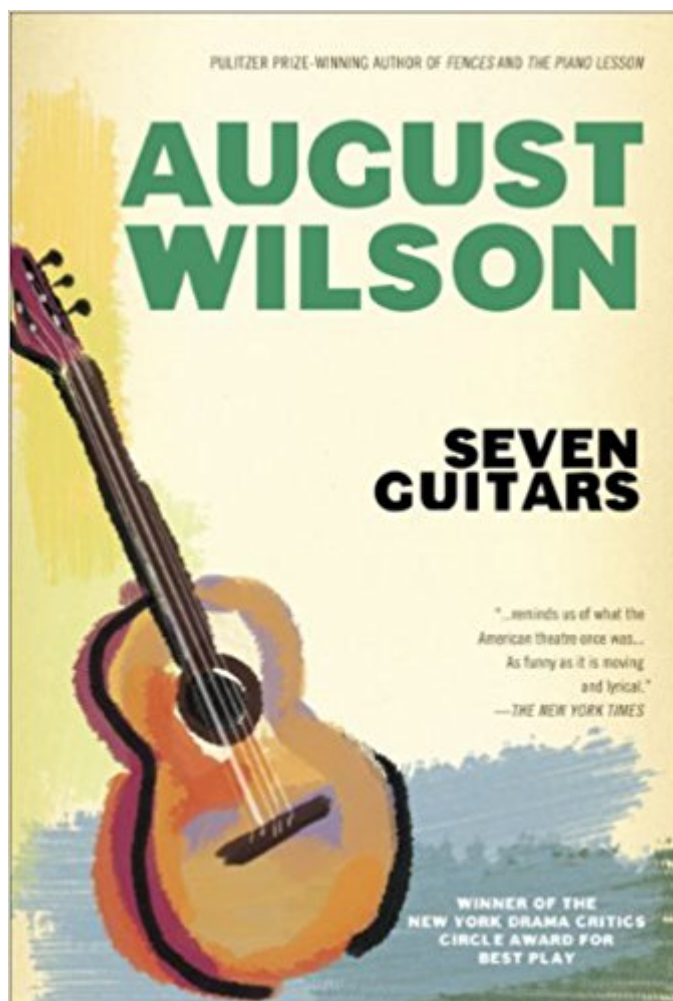


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Seven Guitars



Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson* Winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play It is the spring of 1948. In the still cool evenings of Pittsburgh's Hill district, familiar sounds fill the air. A rooster crows. Screen doors slam. The laughter of friends gathered for a backyard card game rises just above the wail of a mother who has lost her son. And there's the sound of the blues, played and sung by young men and women with little more than a guitar in their hands and a dream in their hearts. August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* is the sixth chapter in his continuing theatrical saga that explores the hope, heartbreak, and heritage of the African-American experience in the twentieth century. The story follows a small group of friends who gather following the untimely death of Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, a local blues guitarist on the edge of stardom. Together, they reminisce about his short life and discover the unspoken passions and undying spirit that live within each of them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The seven guitars of the title are the seven characters whose straightforward story lines Wilson turns into beautiful, complex music—a funky wailing, irresistible Chicago blues." —John Lahr, *The New Yorker* "Riveting. . . . Wilson's mastery of time and character has never been more apparent." —*Boston Globe* "A play whose epic proportions and abundant spirit remind us of what the American theater once was. . . . As funny as it is moving and lyrical." —Vincent Canby, *New York Times* "August Wilson is a remarkable American playwright. *Seven Guitars* is a

formidably impressive tragi-comedy. This writing is as like and unlike Arthur Miller, as Duke Ellington is as like and unlike Igor Stravinsky." #151;Clive Barnes, New York Post"Full of quiet truth . . . mesmerizing . . . a major voice in our theater . . . unusually powerful." #151;Howard Kissel, New York Daily News"A gritty, lyrical polyphony of voices that evokes the character and destiny of men and women who can't help singing the blues even when they're just talking. Bristles with symbolism, with rituals of word and action that explode into anguished eloquence and finally into violence." #151;Jack Kroll, Newsweek

August Wilson's work was a major American playwright whose work has been consistently acclaimed as among the finest of the American theater. His first play, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for best new play of 1984-85. His second play, *Fences*, won numerous awards for best play of the year, 1987, including the Tony Award, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, and the Pulitzer Prize. *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, his third play, was voted best play of 1987-1988 by the New York Drama Critics' Circle. In 1990, Wilson was awarded his second Pulitzer Prize for *The Piano Lesson*. He died in 2005.

Floyd Barton promised to give Vera the moon. Problem was he wasn't no good, and her neighbor Louise tried to tell her that. Yet, while reading August Wilson's play, *Seven Guitars*, you want what Louise said to be just talk as Wilson uses other male characters in the sets explore the disenfranchisement many black men felt during the period in which the story occurs. As he does so, you have no idea where the story will go. Then again, clues are dropped, like Hedley's machete, to let you know something isn't going to end well.

Each of August Wilson's plays is rich, memorable, and wholly poetic in its scope of the African American experience. Naturally with any series in any genre or medium, some plays are not as good as others--but mostly the entire cycle is a near masterpiece, and certain plays in the cycle (such as *Fences*) are a perfect masterpiece. If you look at the structure of the cycle, you will see that to have ten plays put together to encompass a whole century in the lives of an entire group of people is no small feat. When August Wilson writes of the African Americans, he is in a sense writing about all Americans and how they live their lives. The plays demonstrate their voice in the rich poetry of the blues--one could very well be called the blues musician of the pen and the paper. With no more than a tenth grade education and a lifelong passion for books, Wilson has proven himself a true visionary. August Wilson died in 2005. His absence will be long grieved, just as his

immortal works will surely be forever cherished for their sharp-edged beauty and piercing vitality.

One of his best. I am two plays short of owning the entire cycle. August Wilson was (and is) the voice for a generation.

Got this for kindle. Thanks!

i don't read much much as i cant find a book to interest me enough , but this was an amazing play . I wish i can find more like it .

I was especially rewarded by seeing a superb professional production of this play the other night! I strongly recommend reading it before watching it; the experience is that much more impactful.

A masterpiece: despite its specific location in time and black community, it strikes timeless and universal chords in us.

Enjoyable reading.

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