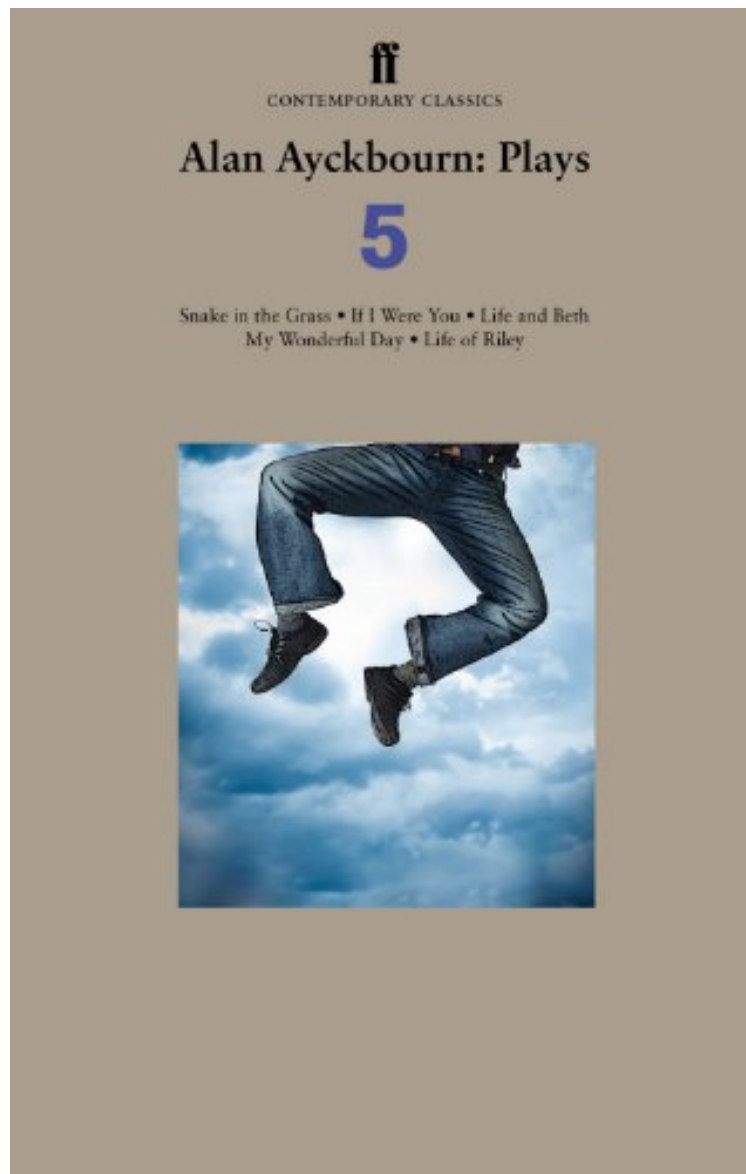


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Alan Ayckbourn Plays 5: Snake in the Grass; If I Were You; Life and Beth; My Wonderful Day; Life of Riley

Alan Ayckbourn

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"Snake in the Grass": "A terrific piece - brilliant, bizarre and yet totally believable ...In fact, it's more than classic; it's close to the top of its class". ("Yorkshire Post"). "If I Were You": "A blissfully funny comedy that's also filled with sadness, a devilishly simple theatrical idea that spins out all kinds of complex truths about human nature". ("Daily Telegraph"). "Life and Beth": "A wise, humane, funny play about the inevitability of death and the continuity of life". ("Guardian"). "My Wonderful Day": "A transformation happens as magical as the most magnificent pantomime transformation anyone could ever imagine ...the playwright dissolves the paraphernalia of our adult selves and uncovers that space inside each of us that is still the child we once were". ("Observer"). "Life of Riley": "As perceptive as ever ...Ayckbourn has once again achieved a satisfyingly rich, tragi-comic complexity". ("Daily Telegraph").About the AuthorAlan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939 to a violinist father and a mother who was a writer. He left school at seventeen with two 'A' levels and went straight into the theatre. Two years in regional theatre as an actor and stage manager led in 1959 to the writing of his first play, The Square Cat, for Scarborough's Theatre in the Round at the instigation of his then employer and subsequent mentor, Stephen Joseph. Some 75 plays later, his work has been translated into over 35 languages, is performed on stage and television throughout the world and has won countless awards. There have been English and French screen adaptations, the most notable being Alain Resnais' fine film of Private Fears in Public Places. Major successes include Relatively Speaking, How the Other Half Loves, Absurd Person Singular, Bedroom Farce, A Chorus of Disapproval, The Norman Conquests, A Small Family Business, Henceforward ..., Comic Potential, Things We Do For Love, and Life of Riley. Surprises was first presented at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, and subsequently at the the Minerva Theatre, Chichester in 2012. In 2009, he retired as Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre, where almost all his plays have been and continue to be first staged, after 37 years in the post. Knighted in 1997 for services to the theatre, he received the 2010 Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts and became the first British playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Special Lifetime Achievement Awards.