



## Bell, Book and Candle

*John Van Druten*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# **Bell, Book and Candle**

*John Van Druten*

## **Bell, Book and Candle** John Van Druten

For 3 males and 2 females. Witch Gillian Holroyd casts a spell on publisher Shepherd Henderson who falls madly in love with her. Because witches can not fall in love, Gillian must choose between the life of a witch or the life of a normal.

## **Bell, Book and Candle Details**

Date : Published December 1st 1951 by Dramatists Play Service (first published 1951)

ISBN : 9780822201045

Author : John Van Druten

Format : Paperback 76 pages

Genre : Plays, Fiction, Theatre, Classics, Fantasy

 [Download Bell, Book and Candle ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Bell, Book and Candle ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Bell, Book and Candle John Van Druten**

---

## **From Reader Review Bell, Book and Candle for online ebook**

### **William says**

Bell, Book & Candle is a period piece, circa 1950. A young woman, and witch, thwarts a college rival's engagement by bewitching the fiancé, the man who lives on the floor above. The young woman is actually interested in the man, which of course, complicates matters when he learns of the rival, without believing in the magic.

The dialogue is written well, having a solid continuity. Billed as a three act comedy the humor is there with the young witch's eccentric aunt and older brother who are also practitioners of magic. Serious moments in the script can be played to great effort, lifting the play up beyond being a silly comedy about magic. But it's the play's concept of witches and witchcraft, which hasn't travelled well. Most readers should be able to forgive this point and still enjoy the read.

---

### **Dave says**

Cute story; kind of dated. Seems like it might have inspired the TV show Bewitched.

---

### **Deena Scintilla says**

Loved the movie that starred Kim Novak which most of you won't remember since it's quite old. The book was also good. I DID read this a long time ago to be honest but have seen the movie more than once.

---

### **Denise Spicer says**

This light spoof of a play about a New York witch is a bit dated with its mid-twentieth century setting. Gillian Holroyd casts a love spell on her attractive neighbor but when he finds out he is furious. She loses her man (and her powers) but, of course love wins out in the end. The background Christmas setting may have made this story interesting to theatergoers but added nothing to the plot.

---

### **Nicolas says**

I like the characters and basic premise, but the script doesn't have much meat to it. I'm sure it would be much more dynamic on stage. Having the cat be so integral was an odd choice. There's no good way to have a cat in a play. Still I'd like to give this a shot sometime.

---

## **Joseph says**

An oldie but goodie. Being produced soon at County Players!

---

## **Nicole says**

John van Druten is a largely forgotten playwright, but he shouldn't be. He writes women better than some playwrights working today. Bell, Book and Candle is a fun little romp with two lovely, complicated characters at its centre. It manages to be romantic, but not overly sentimental and it has such a lovely variety of nuances that would be wonderful to explore on stage.

---

## **Caroline says**

loved this movie. hate reading plays.

---

## **Greg says**

One of my favorite stories of all time. I wanted to turn it into a musical but Disney beat me to it. It opens in 2008, an animated film starring the music and voice of Alicia Keys. Rebecca, if you have not seen this film with Jimmy Stewart and Kim Novac, get it. Great film.

---

## **Deena Scintilla says**

Loved the book AND the movie...an oldie but goodie.

---

## **Chris says**

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/99...#>

---

## **Robert says**

Read with Portland Playreaders

---

## **Bt says**

Kind of cute and kind of funny but mostly unremarkable, I think. I saw some sources that said that this was one of the inspirations for *Bewitched*, which I can readily believe. I read this because I thought the idea of the witches sounded fun, and it was, though I had little understanding of how the magic functioned; it came up surprisingly little. I hate that, even at the end, *Shep is still under her literal spell. Would he still love her if he weren't? It seems to me maybe not. I also am sad that she lost her powers! That's no fun!*

The characters were fine but not great. You know what Shep reminds me of? A dog. He's always acting like one. And his name doesn't help. I didn't particularly like Gillian either. She's pretty manipulative, and she never really repents for the bad things she does.

Practical stuff:

- 2 women, 3 men (Gillian, Shep, Miss Holroyd, Nicky, Sidney Redlitch)
- 2-person scenes: (view spoiler) (Most scenes are too short/have too many people)
- Women's monologues: None

---

### **Neale Sourna says**

Interesting the changes from this stage play to the film with Kim Novak and Jimmy Stewart. Also, cool to know Irene Mayer Selznick had a creative triumph of her own besides being the daughter and wife of some famous guys.

---

### **Meredith says**

This is a comedy?! It just felt insulting - to women, and the idea of love, and the characters were BEYOND paper thin. Blech. I feel like I need to wash my brain out with some good reading. Hopefully whatever I pick up next makes up for this.

---