



# The Odd Couple

*Neil Simon*

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## **The Odd Couple** Neil Simon

Comedy / 6m, 2f / Int. This classic comedy opens as a group of the guys assembled for cards in the apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. And if the mess is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Unger who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed and none too tense, Felix seems suicidal, but as the action unfolds Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean-freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as The Odd Couple is born. "His skill is not only great but constantly growing...There is scarcely a moment that is not hilarious." - The New York Times "Fresh, richly hilarious and remarkably original. Wildly, irresistibly, incredibly and continuously funny." - New York Daily News

## **The Odd Couple Details**

Date : Published February 12th 2010 by Samuel French, Inc. (first published 1965)

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Author : Neil Simon

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# From Reader Review The Odd Couple for online ebook

## Charles Coleman says

One of the funniest plays ever and a terrific read. If you like the movie and tv show, go back to the original source and check out the play. And try to imagine Art Carney, Ed Norton himself as Felix playing to Walter Matthau's Oscar.

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## Abigail Kay says

I thoroughly enjoyed this play, my initial reaction was an absurd, ironic, well put together comedic play. Neil Simon's is brilliant in this play, as he alludes to many different literary works for references. His writing style remind me much of Oscar Wilde and the absurd over the top commentary on societal issues. Neil even makes many allusions to Oscar Wilde as the two women Oscar and Felix date are named Gwendolyn and Cecily, a direct similarity to Wilde's play The Importance of Being Ernest. I also thought it was intentional to name the main character Oscar, after Oscar Wilde because they do reflect each other in many ways personally wise. The book was fast to read, and hard to put down. The over the top statements always kept me laughing and the juxtaposition of the two man characters kept me engaged. The plot line even though comedic had a serious undertone that address many real relationship struggles, depression, and two extremes of order and disorder and their effects. This play was marvelously written and one I would recommend to anyone in the future to read.

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## Cassie says

The audiobook version has Nathan Lane reading for Oscar, and anything with Lane is automatically 2x as entertaining. A classic comedy.

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## Prasidh Ramson says

A three act play telling the story of what happens when neat freak Felix is kicked out of his house by his wife and stays with happy go lucky, slovenly Oscar.

Written originally in 1960, the dynamic has seeped its way into modern culture. One can draw a line from this original play to most mix matched characters on TV, book and film since. (Lethal Weapon came to mind).

The writing is smart, snappy and very witty. Character's traits are established quickly through accounts of themselves via other characters. On a social level it does explore the nature of men, women and strained relations.

A short engaging read. Recommend for any fan of modern literature or playwriting.

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### **Patrick says**

Comedic and fun, this play has great moments of levity and the characters are excellently defined through their dialogue. One of the first plays I've ever read and convinced me to read a lot more of them.

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### **Julian Munds says**

The dialogue in this one is slick. The first two acts are full of off the wall colourful characters. I know this can be funny with the right actors but it is still two dimensional. I don't know who These two men are. It's well written fluff.

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### **Gary says**

Hilarious. Seriously, I laughed until I was thrown out of the living room. This Neil Simon is the funny Neil Simon.

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### **Su says**

Neil Simon's female version of The Odd Couple (with Olive and Florence instead of Oscar and Felix) is actually even funnier than the original! With a more refined script/jokes and some added dimensions to Olive's and Florence's friendship as female best friends, the Female Odd Couple is everything you loved about the original and more. For instance, Olive hosts a Trivial Pursuit game night instead of poker, and the trivia questions plus the girls' cheeky commentary add some extra hilarity to the friendly Act I vibe. The group of girl friends themselves are a dynamic, colorful bunch, and Florence and Olive's friendship is touching in an entirely different way from Oscar's and Felix's, though the contrasting personalities shenanigans are just as funny. Absolutely sparkling humor. Highly recommended! (especially the Female Version)

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### **Edward Cheer says**

This has been a long one coming. Of all of Neil Simon's plays, no matter which ones I've scouted out and read with mild enjoyment, the one play by him that critics everywhere seem to enjoy the most has always lingered behind my shoulder. Since I've been going through the highest recommendations I've received from friends and critics and I've waited to read this play for a long time and... yeah. Yeah, I really like it.

The Odd Couple is about Oscar, a slob who's living on his own since his divorce years ago, and Felix, a neat freak who has just gone through his divorce. After calming Felix down from nearly killing himself, Oscar lets him stay in his apartment. And the two don't get along well, needless to say, and it leads to many antics and ridiculous gags.

I love the amount of control Neil Simon exerts with his characters in this play. We only stay in this apartment, but it goes through change as the character's do. It is a comedy, yes, but there are clear arcs that both Felix and Oscar go through, and the apartment's state is evident of that. Their friends Vinny and Roy are a tad underdeveloped. They just play poker. But I absolutely loved Murray. His deadpan lines has me laughing my a\*\* off. Typically, Simon has over-the-top and zany characters bouncing off of each other for humor, but Murray is a starkly different character from Simon's portfolio. Another humorous detail is how Oscar and Felix bicker as if they're a married couple. All in all, this comedy is actually charming and the idea really works.

Through smart writing, clever attention to detail, and of course plenty of wit and charm, Simon created one of his finest comedies. I'm certainly not surprised why this comedy is so beloved by many, and I'm giving *The Odd Couple* a very high recommendation.

## Rachel C. says

A play about how a friendship can be as intimate and infuriating as a marriage.

(Note 1: I definitely have a real estate fetish. All I kept thinking was, "Damn, how did Oscar score an eight-room apartment in New York City?!")

(Note 2: Gwendolyn and Cecily - that's a tip of the hat to Oscar Wilde, yes?)

### Ahmad Sharabiani says

### Odd couple,

[illegible]

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## Steve Scott says

Laugh out loud funny. I saw a local civic theater production of this and borrowed the script off of one of the actors. I had to read it.

## George K. says

Το κλασικό αυτό θεατρικό έργο, που αποτελεί τη βάση για την ομιλήσιμη ταινία του 1968, με

πρωταγωνιστές τους Jack Lemmon και Walter Matthau, είναι μάλιστα το πρώτο κωμικό έργο που διαβάζω, μιας και όλα τα υπόλοιπα θεατρικά ήταν είτε αλληγορικές είτε δρμάματα. Ε, όσο να'ναι, θέλα να διαβάσω κάτι για να μου φτιξεί το κέφι και το συγκεκριμένο θεατρικό έργο το κατέφερε, και με το παραπάνω. Ο τίτλος -"Το αταξιαστό ζευγύρι"- δεν θα μπορούσε να μην είναι πιο... ταιριαστός, μιας και πρωταγωνιστούν δυο τσέποι, πρόσφατα χωρισμένοι απ' τις γυναίκες τους, που το φέρε η μόρα να συγκατοικούν μαζί στο σπίτι του ενός. Ο ένας είναι εκνευριστικό τακτικός και προσεκτικός, ενώ ο άλλος είναι αφορητά ακατάστατος και αμελής. Ήταν δυο τέτοιοι άνθρωποι μ'νουν στον ίδιο χώρο, οι τσακωμοί π'νε και ρχονται. Το σενάριο είναι απλό και έχει σκοπό να προσφέρει γέλιο και αναγνωστικό απλάυση με τους ξυπνούς διαλόγους και την αλησφαιρα. Προσωπικό γλάσα κ'μποσεσ φορς. Πολύ ευχαρστώς θα βλεπα μια θεατρικό παρσταση βασισμένη σ'αυτό το έργο, με την προπ'θεση β'βαια η σκηνοθεσ'α να είναι καλή και οι ηθοποιοί προσεκτικοί επιλεγμένοι. Π'ντως έχω την ομ'τιτλή ταιν'α και σκοπε'ω να τη δω λ'αν συντ'μωσ. Κ'τι μου λ'ει τί μπορεί να την ευχαριστηθ' περισσότερο και απ' το βιβλ'ο!

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### **Drake Shadwell says**

It's rare for me to laugh out loud while reading a play/book/etc... I can often recognize the humor in the text and appreciate it, but this play had me giving voice to my elation. As I imagined actors running about a stage, yelling at one another, throwing these and the fantastic timing of lines, I couldn't help but laugh like I was there in the audience. The utter ridiculousness of the situation, combined with how absolutely rationale Neil Simon makes it seem is beautiful. How he has crafted the story in such a way that you can't believe where you have arrived, but you understand exactly how you got there! I would love to see a production of this and would love even more to play in it! (cause that is what it would be: play.)

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### **Eileen says**

For a comedy, the first scene is a little dark with all the talk of suicide. I'm not one who thinks suicide is something to joke about. Probably a director could make the rest of the jokes funnier. The situation is humorous, and it would be a fun play to see, but I've read other plays I liked better.

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### **Lauren Hancock says**

This one was not one of my favorites, which was a bit surprising to me because it's probably the Neil Simon play I've heard of the most. It was fun and quick, and it had its moments, but I didn't connect as much with the characters or plot. The conceit of the poker game felt, to me, like it slowed the story down and added extra weight--surprising because Simon is usually so good at jumping right into the action and not providing unnecessary backstory or slow context.

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### **Marisa Markoch says**

This play is comedy gold. It has so many contemporary comedic monologue possibilities for women and would highly recommend this play.

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### **Kathy Worrell ? says**

I had to read a story (Diversity Challenge) published in the year that I was born.

What a great audiobook. Nathan Lane was Oscar Madison, he was hilarious.

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### **Paul LaFontaine says**

Its hard to go wrong with this famous setup - the fastidious roommate vs the slob. Then add Neil Simon's ability to drop in the funny lines and its a winner. Better than the TV show, which was great too. Enjoyed it.

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### **César OG says**

¡Esta obra es genial! Me costó bastante trabajo reírme durante todo el texto ya que ambos protagonistas son esencialmente diferentes, es posible empatizar con uno y no con el otro, pero ya que entiendes a ambos personajes, la comedia se revela como lo que es: una genial historia de amor, de amistad, de maduración y responsabilidad.

El autor es uno de los pocos que ha tenido cuatro de sus obras interpretadas de manera simultánea en Broadway, y esta es una de ellas. Vale mucho la pena.

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