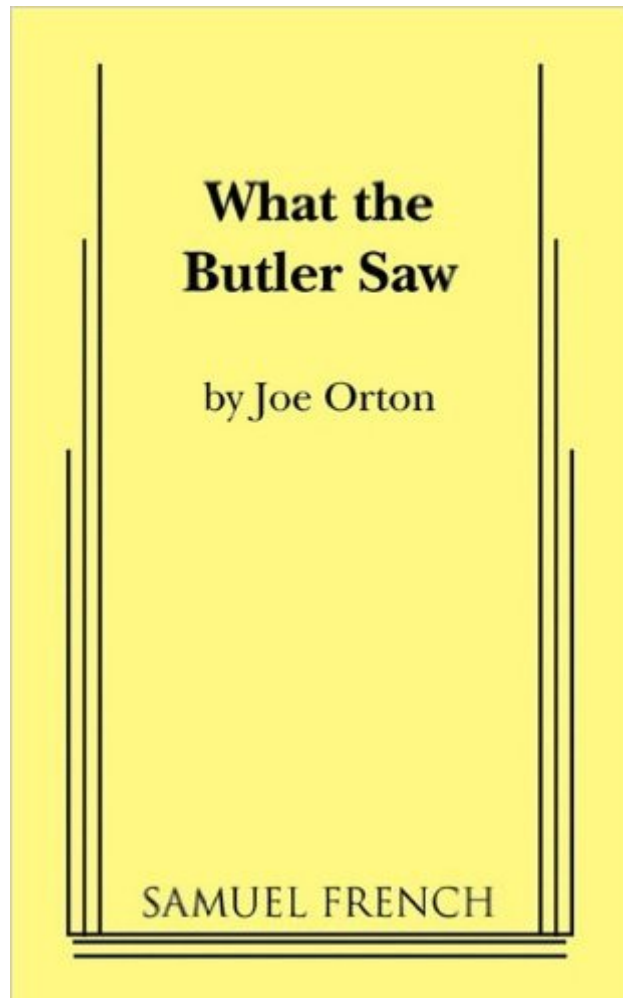


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# What The Butler Saw



## Synopsis

"Joe Orton's last play, *What the Butler Saw*, will live to be accepted as a comedy classic of English literature" (Sunday Telegraph) The chase is on in this breakneck comedy of licensed insanity, from the moment when Dr Prentice, a psychoanalyst interviewing a prospective secretary, instructs her to undress. The plot of *What the Butler Saw* contains enough twists and turns, mishaps and changes of fortune, coincidences and lunatic logic to furnish three or four conventional comedies. But however the six characters in search of a plot lose the thread of the action - their wits or their clothes - their verbal self-possession never deserts them. Hailed as a modern comedy every bit as good as Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Orton's play is regularly produced, read and studied. *What the Butler Saw* was Orton's final play. "He is the Oscar Wilde of Welfare State gentility" (Observer) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While Orton's cynicism may be somewhat darker than Oscar Wilde's, his wit is every bit as bright. "What the Butler Saw" is a satirical farce that takes aim at the madness of sanity and the insanity of reason. When a psychiatrist attempts to seduce a job applicant and is interrupted by the unexpected return of his wife and a spot inspection by his boss, he must scramble to conceal his doings. As his antics get more and more desperate, he must also find a way to avoid being committed to his own mental asylum as a patient. Fast paced and funny, Orton never misses an opportunity to ridicule social norms and conventional thinking. While I'm not quite sure about the title, I am quite sure it was delightful reading from lights up to lights down.

"What The Butler Saw" is Joe Orton's best play with some of his best lines. I've never understood why a film has never been made, or at least a BBC television production. Very funny and over the top.

I got this a preparation for seeing this play at the Jewel Theatre in Santa Cruz CA, and it did help because the jokes are rapid fire and deadly. I plan to read it again because it is so funny.

Absurd. Irreverent. And hilarious. May be the funniest book I ever read, certainly the funniest play. Definitely check it out.

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