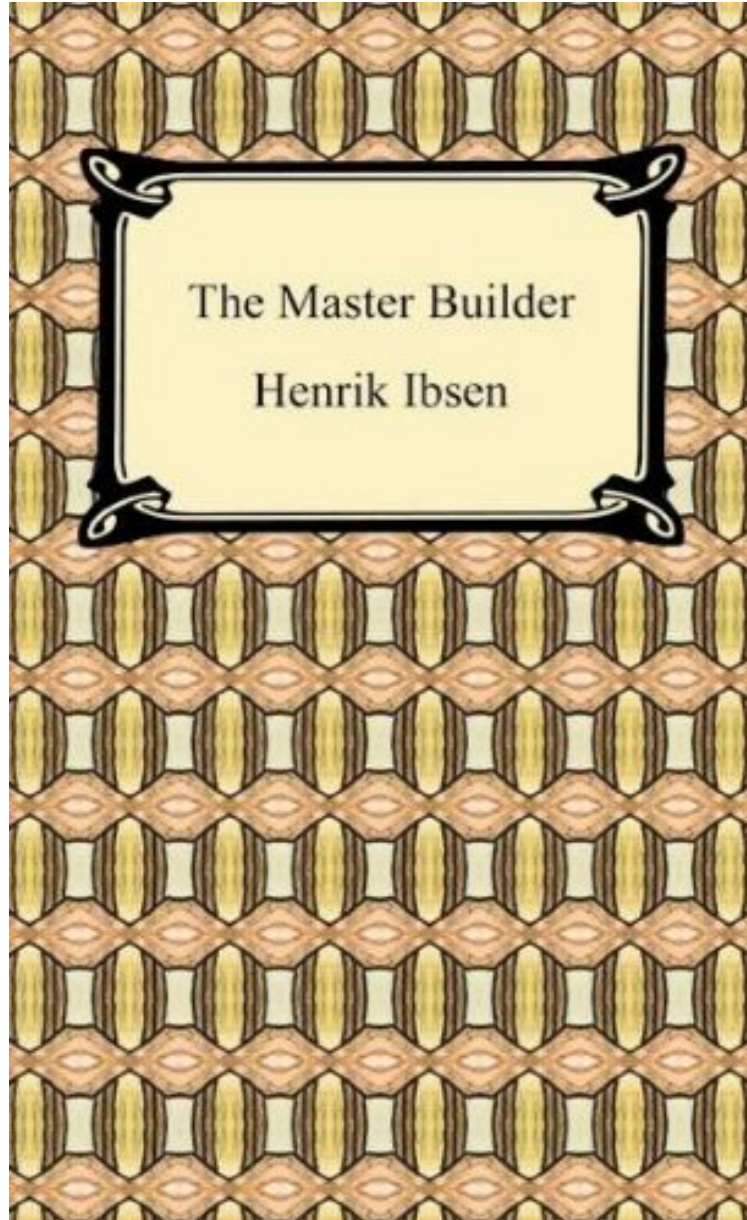


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## The Master Builder [with Biographical Introduction]

*Henrik Ibsen*

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**Henrik Ibsen : The Master Builder [with Biographical Introduction]** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Master Builder [with Biographical Introduction]:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Viking's spirit and a robust conscienceBy ChiekAnother brilliant play by Ibsen. Next to 'The Wild Duck', this is my favourite Ibsen's play so far. I like it more than 'Ghosts' and 'Peer Gynt' because of the intense theme behind it. A man with a Viking's spirit and a robust conscience will do things as he

pleases and without remorse even if others suffer for his action. He is an amoral hedonistic man who is a menace to his family and to society at large. In some ways, this play reminds me of Dostoyevsky's 'Crime and Punishment' because it dwelt with crossing the line and committing a crime. But there is a big difference because Raskolnikov had a non robust conscience. His spirit broke down and with Godsend Sonya, his soul was redeemed. As for Solness (the master builder), there was no redemption for him. Hilda, the angel of death, delivered the retribution he deserved. In both Raskolnikov and Solness, dispensation of providence provided both with two different consciences. One with a robust conscience. The other a redemptive conscience. Both had different endings, retribution for Solness, forgiveness, hope and redemption for Raskolnikov. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ibsen's play of the downfall of an older generation. By Kevin M Quigg There is a lot of symbolism in this short three act play. There are a total of seven characters, and Solness is the main achiever and character in the play. Solness is an older man, who resents the younger generation. Solness himself is a flawed character. He has a loveless marriage with only two sons who died young. His wife is dulled by her own losses. Solness depends upon the praise of younger females like Kaia or Hilda Wangel. His reach for the heights and perhaps a younger woman results in his fall and death. I thought this an OK play. One has to know the symbolism in order to appreciate the fall of an accomplished builder. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classic author with a story that is relevant today. By E. Stevens Everything by Ibsen is good but I haven't had time to read this one yet. I believe it has great relevance to some current events.

Written in 1892, later in Ibsen's life, "The Master Builder," or "Bygmester Solness," is a 3-act play that explores the conflicted thoughts and feelings of the hardened and powerful artist Halvard Solness. He is an older architect who painstakingly worked his way to professional distinction at the cost of his personal life. As he reflects on his career, Halvard is frustrated with his ambition and dreams of achieving genuine satisfaction in his life. At the same time, he fears being surpassed by a younger generation of talent, including by his own son, a younger member of the firm. A symbolic and semi-autobiographical play, "The Master Builder" portrays a creative man's confusion and downfall.

From Library Journal Here the Ibsen classic gets an overhaul to make the language more accessible to modern audiences. For nontraditionalists only. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. Drama in three acts by Henrik Ibsen, originally published as Bygmester Solness in 1892 and first performed in 1893. The play explores the needs of the artist in relation to those of society and the limits of artistic creativity. There is an autobiographical element in the depiction of the aging architect, Halvard Solness, who feels pressure from a younger, more idealistic and ambitious generation of architects and fears the decay of his own creativity. -- The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Norwegian