

How The Other Half Loves

By: Alan Ayckbourn

Play no. 289

Opening show: 08/12/1973

Hebrew by: Eli Keinan

Directed by: Milo Sperber

Setting by : Joseph Carl

Costumes by : Adina Reich

Lightning by : Michael Lieberman

The Cast

Fiona Foster: Miriam Zohar

Terry Phillips: Tova Pardo

Frank Foster: Avraam Ronai

Bob Phillips: Schmuel Atzmon

William Featherstone: Alex Peleg

Marry Featherstone: Aviva Marks

The Play

Act I Scene 1

We are looking into the living rooms of the Fosters and the Phillips, in one of the richer London suburbs on a Thursday morning. Frank Foster is the Director of a big concern and Bob Phillips is his subordinate. The single set shows that the two rooms are placed within each other and not side by side. It is obvious that Fiona Foster knows how to run her house and that Terry Phillips doesn't, but then Terry's interests go beyond the confines of her little family – she would like to be generally helpful to mankind. In consequence, breakfast at the Foster's is a beautifully organized affair, and at the Phillips it is a shambles. There is one subject which dominates the conversation of the families: Frank wants to know where and with whom his wife Fiona spent last night and Terry wants to know where and with whom her husband spent last night.

Bob who is in fact having an affair with Fiona thinks of a beautiful excuse. He says that he was with William Featherstone, (ye another subordinate of Frank Foster) and passes this alibi on to Fiona who in turn tells her husband that she was with Mary Featherstone. They both maintain that the Featherstones are unfaithful to each other. Terry Phillips and Frank Foster decide to invite William and Mary to dinner in an attempt to patch things up. And so the Featherstones find themselves with two dinner engagements: on Thursday night with the Fosters and Friday night with the Phillips.

Act I Scene 2

The two dinner parties are not a success. Everything goes wrong. It may be the fault of the Featherstones: William is too anxious to please, and Mary is too timid to say anything. Naturally, the loopholes in the alibi that both Terry and Frank have been told by their respective spouses concerning that Wednesday night, do not help to make a Jolly evening.

Act II Scene 1

Terry takes a toothbrush, a long playing record and the baby and leaves for husband – "Forever", she goes to Frank for advice, and quite by accident discovers the identity of the other woman in her husbands life – Fiona, of course. Terry finds this news by no means disturbing and returns home. In the meantime however, her husband has a visitor, Marry Featherstone, she has come to help and to make friends with Terry. Frank telephones Bob and when the telephone is answered by Marry, he jumps to two conclusions. Bob is having an affair with Marry, and his wife Fiona lying to him about that Wednesday night to cover up for Marry. This discovery is relayed to William who is determined to take horrible revenge on Bob.

Act II Scene 2

Frank still in the dark as to what is really going on, arranges a meeting of all concerned to sort things out. Inevitably the truth comes out: Mary never had an affair with Bob. The Featherstones and Phillips return home happy and reconciled. The time has come for Frank himself to face up to the truth, and he does so like a man. He forgives Fiona her little escapade, what ekse cab ge di... As long as she doesn't make a habit of it. And so we hope they will live happily ever after...