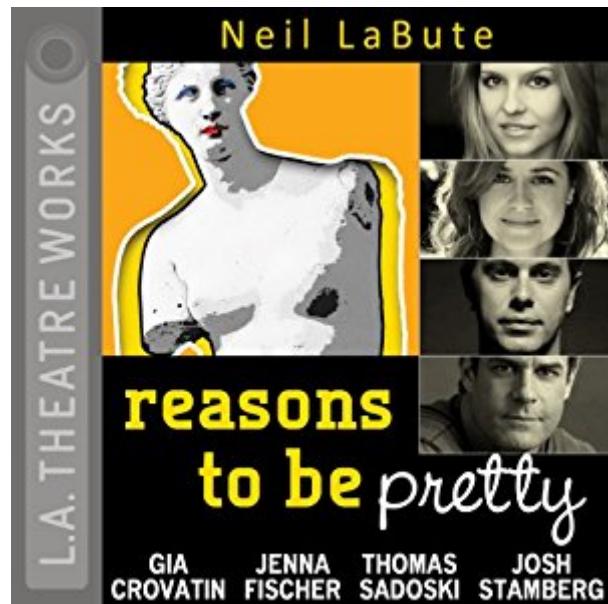


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# Reasons To Be Pretty



## Synopsis

What does it mean to be pretty? Do you really need someone to validate your appearance? Neil LaBute tackles our obsession with physical beauty head-on in a work nominated for multiple Tony and Drama Desk Awards. Our production, directed by the playwright, includes original Broadway cast member Thomas Sadoski, whose acclaimed performance also earned a Tony nomination. Includes a backstage conversation with Neil LaBute and the cast. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast production featuring Jenna Fischer, Thomas Sadoski, Gia Crovatin, and Josh Stemberg. Written and directed by Neil LaBute. Recorded by L.A. Theatre Works before a live audience.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

The main drawback of the Electronic adaptation is that you can't print it, download it to your PC, or email it. This brought about issues when I needed to preform a scene from the play and was not ready to make notes or print a duplicate for the execution.

Fair play. No the best writing average plot.

"Reasons To Be Pretty"--at the outset I must admit that I haven't seen this play which puts me at a disadvantage in evaluating it. It was vying for a Tony in June of 2009, but lost out to "God of Carnage" which is a play with more going for it in terms of merit and overall gravitas (even though "Carnage" is funnier than this one). "Reasons," which closed a weekend after the Tonys when it lost out, is about four ordinary twentyish people: two couples, Greg and Steph who are living together

and Kent and Carly who are married. We don't ever see Steph and Carly together, although the other characters interact. During the course of the play each of the four addresses the audience with a long monologue. Greg makes an off-handed remark to his buddy Kent which deeply hurts Steph when Carly reports it to her. He told Kent her face was "regular." Greg and Steph seem like nice people, but Kent is a sleazebag, and we're not too sure about Carly. In his introduction Neil La Bute says, "I've written about a lot of men who are really little boys at heart, but Greg... just might be one of the few adults I've ever tackled." If to him he has portrayed Greg as an adult, I think he should go back to the drawing board because Greg has a long way to go. The remark splits Greg and Steph apart. If you're going through a bad spell in a relationship, you may want to skip this play until you're on your feet emotionally. Greg's real feelings toward Steph are rather difficult to read because he seems to make a U turn that isn't convincingly explained. When Steph gives Greg a list of the things wrong with him, the play is hilarious. It's hard to build up a great deal of sympathy for any of these people other than Steph, although with actors on stage it might be an entirely different situation. George Carlin would have despised these modern guy's names like Greg and Kent; perhaps it's a satiric thrust on LaBute's part. It's a very accessible play, easy for readers to comprehend and close to the mark in the way relationships work for many readers. We've been there. We can empathize. The play has a lot of humor, deals with breaking-up, infidelity, and the power of the words we use to describe the way people look. I think women will find it has more of a male outlook.

Love this play - did a scene from it for acting class

Great play. Came across it as I was looking for monologues and the title was interesting. Unfortunately, my acting teacher told me the monologues from this play are overdone. Great story though.

Love Neil LaBute!!

I had to buy this for class and honestly wish I didn't have to. I think the story is crap and, even though there is some good writing, it kind of makes me ashamed of the human race that this... story, whose premise is so bad, that even soap operas would call it cliche, qualifies as entertainment

This is the third LaBute play I've read. I liked "The Shape of Things," enjoyed "Fat Pig" less, and I

didn't get anything at all out of this one. When I used to teach high-school English, I would ask my students to state the "theme" of a work of literature, but I wouldn't be able to do that for this work. What is the point of the play? It's just a bunch of shallow people speaking in incomplete sentences. I didn't learn anything, didn't really care about any of the characters, and felt frustrated that none of them could finish a thought. Maybe that's the point, but if so, LaBute seems to be a one-trick pony. Stupid, shallow people acting stupidly shallow -- how many plays can he make out of that?

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