[Download] The Doctor's Dilemma: a Tragedy

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B Shaw
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B Shaw : The Doctor's Dilemma: a Tragedy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Doctor's Dilemma: a Tragedy:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Too smart, apparently, for someBy anonymous"Cauchon: If you dare do what this woman has done - set your country above the holy Catholic Church - you shall go to the fire with her."So speaks a more engaging, complex executioner of the legendary young soldier put forth by Bernard Shaw in "Saint Joan." Even if the Bishop put Joan to death for political reasons he likely believed that her execution was just. The Catholic Church's problems with Joan lingered for nearly 500 years. Her active assertion of nationalism as a holy endeavor intuited by her own judgment undermined the Catholic church's political authority, and yes, presaged the Reformation, even if Joan was not a Protestant (Shaw labels her "anti clerical").And she willingly asserted a non-traditional feminine role (soldiering and politicking), which by its nature required non-traditional feminine behavior and dress. Reviewers who say that Joan wore armor to keep from being raped are half right, since Joan's soldiering included such hazards, like being wounded. But she thrived in it too. In fact, I agree with Shaw that the voices spurring her on were Joan's own subconcious, but that is another debate...Those who are skeptical of Shaw's ideas would do well to consider the year of her Canonization: 1920. It's no accident that a year after the Great War, in which the world's powers successfully mobilized against each other in the name of Nationalism (the churches providing prayers and getting out of the way), Catholicism threw up its hands and recognized the genius of the French teenager. This too as women had been called on in support roles like nurses and ambulance drivers, and were being enfranchised by their European and American nations.The play itself is typical Shaw - bright, smart, very worthwhile. None of the play's

acts goes on too long. None is weak, except for Act III on the eve of the battle of Orleans, but Shaw is Shaw and seems embarassed by the warlike bluster. Joan herself, as others have observed, often speaks in lines that are taken directly from the trial transcripts. When she doesn't it's usually to give her a flash of wit that rarely seems contrived. This is Joan for grown-ups. And it is Joan for the 21st century: post-modern, the old sentiments put aside.Also reccomended: Regine Pernoud's books. If you need to hear what a pretty, chaste, tear-provoking, goody goody of a girl Joan was buy Mark Twain (I myself donated that volume to the public library when I was 17).0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful, historical dramatizationBy CustomerThis is an excellent play. It does not focus on Joan's death, but on her life, and the aftermath surrounding her death. A thoughtful approach; a well-written drama that Shaw researched well. He is an excellent storyteller.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy Kenneth RomanI was re-introduced to St. Joan by the National Theatre Live broadcast of a modern dress production from London's Donmar Playhouse. Rereading the book after many years reminded me of Shaw's genius. It's a fast, fun, thought-provoking read.