

Theme of "Before Breakfast" by Eugene O'Neill

Eugene O'Neill's short story "Before Breakfast" shows an unhappily married couple living out sad lives they never imagined when they were married. The story tells of what could happen when dreams and aspirations are dashed by cold reality and hardship. As a result, we see two desperate people struggling with one another .

Before Breakfast is a short gloomy play by Eugene O'Neill. Eugene O'Neill was born in 1888 in New York City. He is the only American dramatist to ever win the Nobel Prize for literature. Before Breakfast is set in the Greenwich Village section of New York City, in a small one room flat .The flat consists of a kitchen and dinning area. There are only two characters in this drama. Mrs. Roland who is the only speaking character and her husband Alfred. Alfred's hand is seen once in the play, but not much else. Although, Alfred is not seen, he contributes a great deal to the conflict. With only Mrs. Rowland on stage, O'Neill allows the plot to revolve around her.

This drama portrays that aspirations and dreams are dashed by hardships and stark realities of life. Mrs Rowland confronts her huaband's joblessness and infidelity. She jabbers all theough the play expressing desperation, anger and agony. we learn of Alfred from comments made by his wife. He never speaks a single word in his self defence. With the focus on mrs Rowland , the playwright is able to bring a tragic plot. The most surprising part is is the ending of the play where Alfred commits suicide. Why he does that nobody knows. but the fact remains that he ends his own life leaving everything behind including his problems. This the drama portrays that aspirations and dreams are dashed by hardships and realities of life.