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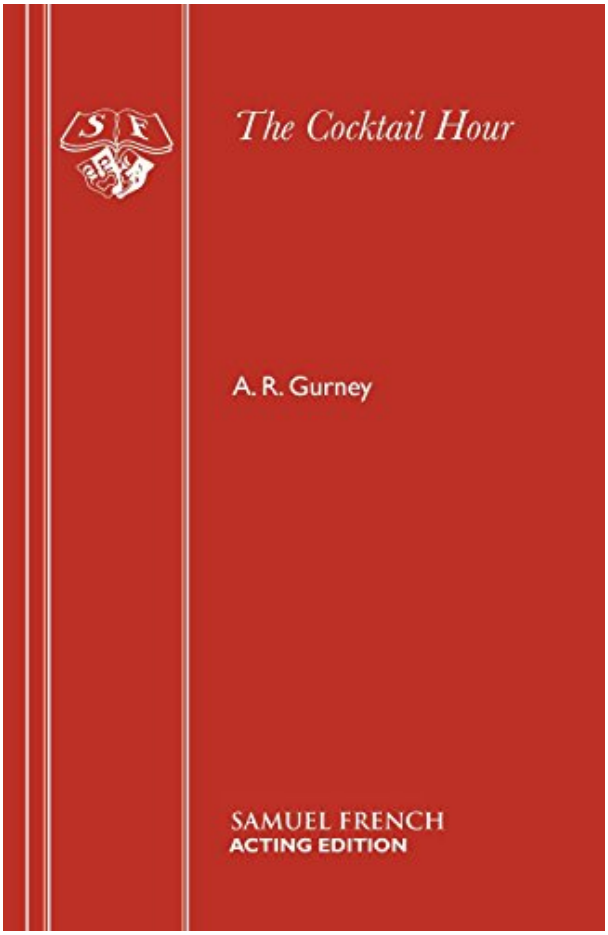

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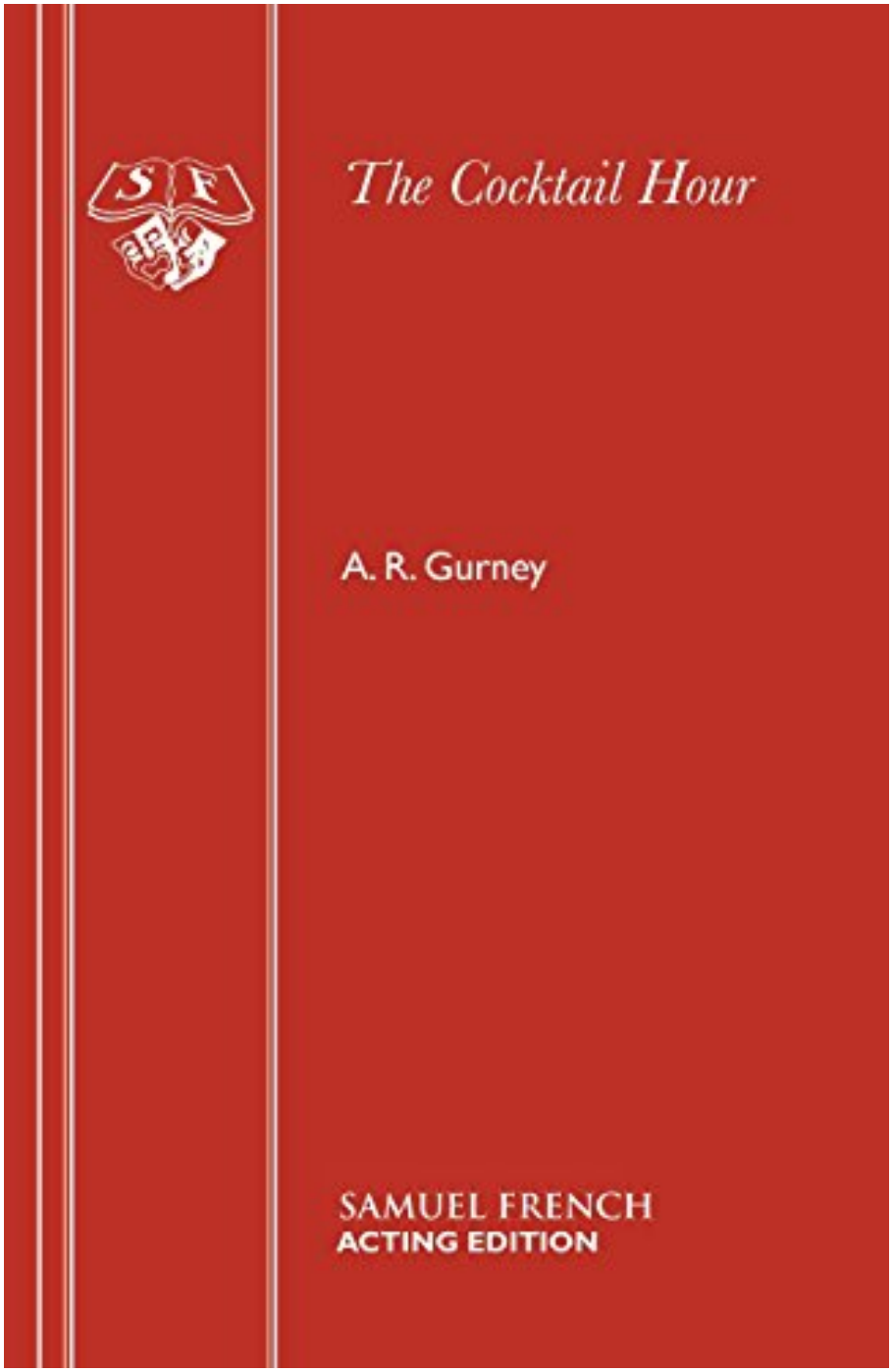

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From the Publisher
Winner: Corporation for Public Broadcasting Silver Award, 1995.

About the Author
A.R. Gurney (born 1930) is an American playwright and novelist. Born in Buffalo, New York, Gurney, a graduate of St. Paul's School (Concord, New Hampshire), attended Williams College and the Yale School of Drama, after which he began teaching Humanities at MIT. He began writing plays such as Scenes from American Life, Children, and The Middle Ages while at MIT, but it was his great success with The Dining Room that allowed him to write full-time.

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With a mixture of gentle comic poignancy and dramatic tension, one of America's leading contemporary playwrights here examines the problems which arise when John, a leading playwright, returns home to ask his parent's permission to produce his latest work, a play about his family. The Cocktail Hour had a long and successful run in New York and successful tours in both the UK and Australia.

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Good fast moving dialogue with intriguing characters,
By (=^_^=) Broncos Fan
According to the John Gassner Best Plays Series, this A.R. Gurney play is included in the Best American Plays Ninth Series 1983-1992. It is excellent! This is NOT to be confused with T.S. Eliot's The Cocktail Party.

The setting takes place in the mid 70s in upstate NY, a well-to-do home of an older couple, Bradley and Ann. Their son John makes a visit home during the "sacred" Cocktail Hour and seeks his parents permission to proceed with the play he wrote about the family. In it, he will make some revelation about the family that includes something very personal he intends to clarify.

Bradley, the father, is adamant that he doesn't want this play published.
Ann, the mother, believes that maybe the family information would be better suited for a book, because it is less personal than a play. And his sister Nina, is upset because enough is not written about her.

This is a brilliant exchange of dialogue and interaction with characters, and with this, you gain a complete sense of this intriguing family and their share of domestic distress. ....Rizzo

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
His sense of humor and insight is terrific, and long standing over the decades of his ...
By carolyn gurney
I married a Gurney, and am aware of the likeness of family members in this and other Gurney plays. That is okay. His sense of humor and insight is terrific, and long standing over the decades of his work.

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