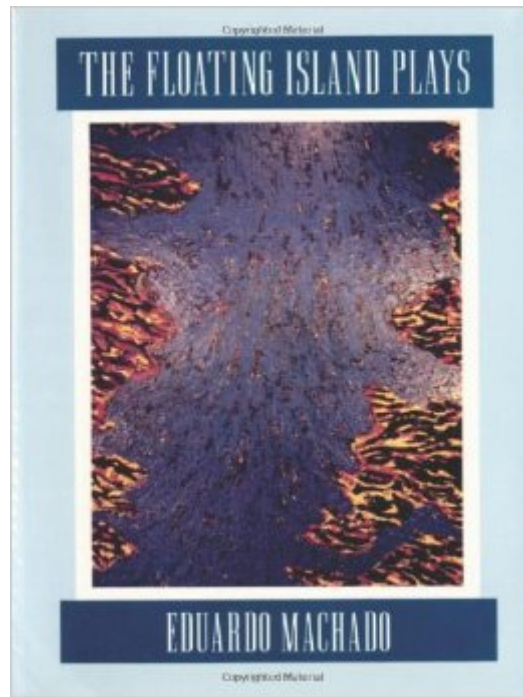


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# The Floating Island Plays



## Synopsis

Though his work is intimate in scale, the tale it implicitly tells is of epic historical dimensions, involving sweeping political, economic, social and religious change. • Frank Rich, New York Times

In the Floating Island Plays Cuban-American dramatist Eduardo Machado explores the meaning of his homeland's history. This tragi-comic quartet tells the twentieth-century story of several extended families, linked by marriage and then by exile in the United States. The Modern Ladies of Guanabacoa shows one family's climb to wealth in the Cuba of 1928-31. Castro's seizure of power is the offstage catalytic event in both *Fabiola* and *In the Eye of the Hurricane*. *Broken Eggs* takes place at a southern California wedding in 1979 and reveals the complexities of life in America for three generations of displaced persons. Machado's vision is Chekhovian in its complexity, in its balance of criticism and compassion. The story he tells is at once political drama and social comedy, speaking directly to every citizen of the modern world who can't go home again. Eduardo Machado was born in Cuba and came to the United States when he was nine, growing up in Los Angeles. He is the author of more than forty plays, including *In the Eye of the Hurricane*, *Once Removed* and *Stevie Wants to Play the Blues*. Machado has taught playwriting at Sarah Lawrence College, Columbia University, and New York University. He has received three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and a Rockefeller grant.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Boy, do these plays ever pack a bunch. With sex, secrets, family betrayal, homosexuality, incest,

and a bevy of other topics, there's no telling how anyone could place these plays down. Machado is one of the best Cuban comedy writers I've read in ages. I've never laughed so much about the Bay of Pigs or Fidel Castro. I never thought I would. I really do hope these were supposed to be comedies, because each play makes me think of I Love Lucy - but with the edge of a soap opera. If these are not supposed to be comedies - well, I can't even begin to think that way. They simply have to be. There's no doubt about it!

This author has a genuine way with words. I loved all the plays in the book. I highly recommend it.

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