

# Deception in importance of being earnest and m.butterfly



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ESSAYS • Deception- who, how, why? what happens as a result of the deception? Importance of being Earnest (Oscar Wilde) > Mr. John/Jack Worthing pretends to have a brother named Earnest that he has to go visit in the city. When he is in the city, he pretends to be his brother Earnest. Mr. Algernon Moncreif lives in the city and pretends to have a friend named Bunburry that he has to visit whenever he wants to escape a social engagement. He goes to visit John Worthing in the country and pretends to be John's brother, Ernest.

Prior to this, Jack had already mentioned to Algernon that as soon as he proposes to Gwendolen, he is going to "kill" his brother Ernest. When he arrives in the city he tells Miss Prism and Cecily that Ernest died. Cecily gets upset because she has had a long time crush on him. All the sudden, Algernon shows up to Jack country house as Ernest, everyone was confused. He introduced himself as Ernest and Jack had a steamy/pissed look in his face. Both men decide to get re-christened as "Earnest".

When the women find out that they lied about their names they get upset and initially decide to no longer marry the men. However, because of the deception, we are able to find out the true name of John Worthing and also that he actually does have a brother (Algernon). Oscar Wilde is commenting on the fakeness of society. He chooses to make fun of upperclass society by making fun of the superficial items that they find to be important.

Bunburying is a way to escape from the falsities of upperclass social life. wo face quality Another point: The play's title can be deceptive. Rather than a form of the name Ernest, the title implies earnestness as a quality one should seek to acquire, as in being honest, sincere, sober, and serious. •M.

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Butterfly > Song deceived Gallimard for the entirety of the play- He pretends to be an Asian woman and manipulates Gallimard to fall in love with her. This leads to Song's ability to spy for the Chinese government. She keeps up this deception for over 20 years until eventually she gets caught by the french government.

The diplomat apparently became aware of the deception only in 1986, when he was charged by the French government with treason—it transpired that his companion had been an agent for the Chinese government, and had passed on sensitive political information that he had acquired from the diplomat. The singer spies on Gallimard for the Chinese government, using Gallimard's own fantasies of submissive oriental femininity to deceive and manipulate him. But Gallimard, now free of twenty years of illusion, tells Song to leave.

Scene 3 returns to Gallimard's cell, in the present. To the audience, he reasserts the vision of love that he had, of the perfect Oriental woman. But he realizes that it was he, not his beloved, who sacrificed everything and was betrayed. He puts on make-up, a wig, and a kimono, and rechristens himself Madame Butterfly. Then he plunges a knife into his body, committing suicide just as Butterfly does in the opera. Gallimard commits suicide and Song loses the adoration she has received her whole life. David Henry Hwang is commenting on Orientalism in this play.

He faults the western way of clumping the orient all together and viewing the orient as inferior to the west. In addition, he comments on the powerplay and the way the east accepts this view and exemplifies the orientalism

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attributes. this way of thinking ends in tragedy for both sides. Weaving into the play many parallels with, and ultimately ironic reversals of, Puccini's opera, *Madame Butterfly*, Hwang explores the stereotypes that underlie and distort relations between Eastern and Western culture, and between men and women.