



## Beautiful Thing

*Jonathan Harvey*

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## **Beautiful Thing** Jonathan Harvey

"If ever a play had the bloom of youth on it, then it is Harvey's marvelous 'urban fairytale' about two schoolboys falling in love on a grim southeast London council estate ... The gaucheness, the rush of excitement, and the inarticulate tenderness of young love are beautifully captured in writing of great truth and delicacy. Only the most irrational of homophobes could fail to be moved by it."—*Daily Telegraph*

"Deliciously upbeat ... seldom has there been a play which so exquisitely and joyously depicts what it's like to be sixteen, in the first flush of love and full of optimism. Truly a most unusual and beautiful thing."—*Guardian*

"An unfakeably truthful portrait of adolescent self-discovery, showing sensitivity and fun pushing up like wild flowers through the concrete crevices of a Thamesmead estate. This is the most heartening working-class comedy since *A Taste of Honey*."—*Independent on Sunday*

## **Beautiful Thing Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2003 by A&C Black (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780413710307

Author : Jonathan Harvey

Format : Paperback 86 pages

Genre : Plays, Theatre, Lgbt, Fiction, Drama, Gay, Glibt, Queer

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## From Reader Review Beautiful Thing for online ebook

### Alex says

¡Qué bonito es el amor limpio y sincero!

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### Dan James says

A great play with a very relatable story. It is often described as an 'urban fairy tale', and this couldn't be more true. You can't help but want for Jamie and Ste to live happily ever after. Also what gay persons life is complete without a hot mess of heterosexual female friend. My only issue with it was that the quick pace sometimes got a little confused. I found some of the characters voices a bit too similar, an issue I'm sure will become a non issue, when I eventually see this live.

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### Jesse says

It's like... without it I wouldn't be me.

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### Al says

Harvey's play "Beautiful Thing" is over twenty years old (hard to believe) yet it continues in print and staged all over the world. In the nineties it was a breath of fresh air with its youthful optimism given the focus on the toll of AIDS by most gay dramatists of the time. Jonathan Harvey knows how to make his audience laugh, shortly after bringing them to tears, and that makes for a grand theatre experience. If coming out is slightly easier for gay teenagers today in the U.K., there's enough tension and anxiety about being different and angering parents that makes the high drama of "Beautiful Thing" still resonate. In short, it hasn't aged a bit. (The Harvey screenplay to the film version was published separately and is loyal to the play with the main difference having short scenes opening up the life of the boys outside of their apartment block.) In both formats Cass Elliot's great voice continues to remind the audience "It's Getting Better." Recommended.

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### Adam says

Absolutely beautiful story about a gay love affair between two young teenagers on a London council estate. The language is funny, realistic and romantic and the characters are believable, all of them, which is what makes this play so compelling to read.

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### Helen Kerr says

Have read & reread this stunning play. Beautiful story, amazing but flawed characters & one of my

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ambitions is still to play Sandra in a stage version!

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### **Dawn Wells says**

Very innocent sweet novel of first love and romance. The romance is between two friends who become lovers. By their actions they discover they are gay. The community like most have different views. But ultimately the boys find they do have some support. And more importantly they have each other. I don't read much gay romance actually this is the 2nd book I've read in this genre. As a straight married female I didn't feel it would appeal. But I guess love is love. In order to understand others without prejudice we need to look at our differences acknowledge those and grow beyond. Congratulations Jonathan on a great book.

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### **Ifrah says**

I completely forgot how short plays are.

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