

**THIRST, AND OTHER
ONE ACT PLAYS**

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Thirst, and Other One Act Plays by Eugene G. O'Neill

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EUGENE G. O'NEILL

**THIRST, AND OTHER
ONE ACT PLAYS**

American Dramatists Series

THIRST

And Other One Act Plays by

EUGENE G. O'NEILL



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THIRST

A PLAY IN ONE ACT

CHARACTERS

A Gentleman

A Dancer

A West Indian Mulatto Sailor

THIRST

A TRAGEDY IN ONE ACT

Scene—A steamer's life raft rising and falling slowly on the long ground-swell of a glassy tropic sea. The sky above is pitilessly clear, of a steel blue color merging into black shadow on the horizon's rim. The sun glares down from straight overhead like a great angry eye of God. The heat is terrific. Writhing, fantastic heat-waves rise from the white deck of the raft. Here and there on the still surface of the sea the fins of sharks may be seen slowly cutting the surface of the water in lazy circles.

Two men and a woman are on the raft. Seated at one end is a West Indian mulatto dressed in the blue uniform of a sailor. Across his jersey may be seen the words "Union Mail Line" in red letters. He has on rough sailor shoes. His head is bare. When he speaks it is in drawling sing-song tones as if he were troubled by some strange impediment of speech. He croons a monotonous negro song to himself as his round eyes follow the shark fins in their everlasting circles.

At the other end of the raft sits a middle-aged