

A PLAY

The Road

Wole Soyinka

A THREE CROWNS BOOK



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THE ROAD



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Wole Soyinka was educated at the universities of Ibadan and Leeds, and he was for a short time a member of the English Department of the University of Ifé. He is known in Nigeria and Britain not only as a dramatist but also as an actor and producer. In Nigeria he has played an important part in establishing and encouraging the theatre, forming his own company, the 1960 *Masks*.

The *Observer* said of Soyinka, 'he has done for our napping language what brigand dramatists from Ireland have done for centuries; looted it awake, rifled its pockets and scattered the loot into the middle of next week . . .'. Soyinka's play *The Road* was awarded the prize for the best published drama at the First Festival of Negro Arts at Dakar.

The recently published *Three Short Plays* demonstrates Wole Soyinka's versatility as a dramatist. In *The Trials of Brother Jero* he highlights the comic elements of the suave prophet Jero's situation, while in *The Strong Breed* and *The Swamp Dwellers* he concentrates on the personal and tragic conflicts provoked by two different dramatic situations. The language of all three plays shows again the dynamic lyricism of Soyinka's art.



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