

“Anna Christie” by Eugene O’Neill

Play Synopsis

A father and daughter reunite to face challenges in life. Anna meets her father, Chris, and sets sail on a coal barge. While on the barge, a shipwrecked crew is rescued from being adrift at sea. One of the men, Mat, first annoys and then falls in love with Anna, but Chris does not want Anna marrying a sailor. Angered that she has two men trying to control her life, Anna reveals part of her past to shocking results.

Scene Synopsis

Mat wants to marry Anna. Anna reveals that she was raped and became a prostitute after. Mat is angered at being lied to.

ANNA I s’pose if I tried to tell you I wasn’t – that – no more, you’d believe me, wouldn’t you?

Yes you would. And if I told that jüst getting’ out on this barge, and bein on the sea had changed me, made me feel different about things, ‘s if all I’d been through wasn’t me and didn’t count, and was jüst like it never happened – you’d laugh, wouldn’t you? And you’d die laughin sure if I said that meetin you that funny way that night in the fog and afterwards seein’ you was straight goods stuck on me, had got me to thinkin’ for the first time, and I sized you up as a different kind of man – a seaman as different from the ones on land as water is from mud – and that was why I got stuck on you, too. I wanted to marry you, and fool you, but I couldn’t. Don’t you see how I’d changed?