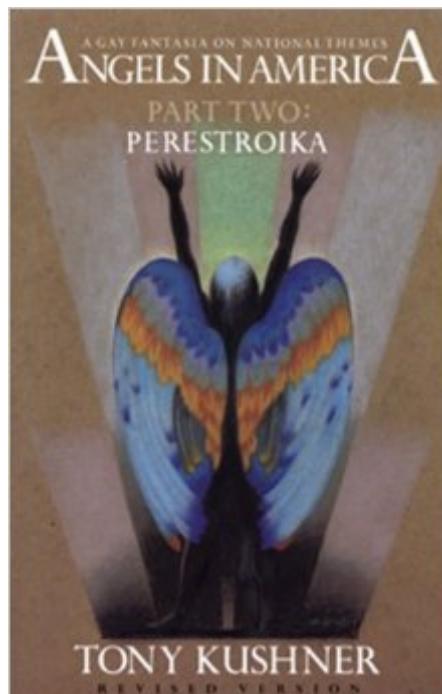


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Angels In America, Part Two: Perestroika



Synopsis

The second half of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic *Angels in America*, *Perestroika* steers the characters introduced in *Millennium Approaches* from the opportunistic eighties to a new sense of community in the nineties. "Not only a stunning resolution of the resounding human drama of *Millennium Approaches*, but also a true millennial work of art."--Frank Rich, *The New York Times*

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Customer Reviews

If you haven't yet read it, please read the prequel to this play, `*Angels in America*, Pt. 1: Millennium Approaches' prior to this one. The staging is a bit different, similar in style (rapid scene changes, minimalist set, etc.) but it starts out with the wreckage from the Angel's entry in the previous play. Kushner described this play as a comedy, but I cannot see it that way. Except for irony and dark humour (perhaps akin to the idea of the Human Comedy, in which nothing is really funny) almost ever movement in the play is serious. And yet, in the face of death, what can be serious? Roy Cohn is on his deathbed in the hospital, and receives prayers and rebuke from Ethel Rosenberg. Harper is gloriously insane in many ways with a Valium addiction, having lost Joe to a male lover. Harper lives with Hannah, Joe's mother now ensconced in New York City. Louis and Prior struggle to come to terms, although Prior knows that Louis has met up with Joe. Cohn learns of Joe's marriage break-up and the cause, and throws a fit. Oh yes, did I fail to mention the drag-queen-turned-nurse named Belize (a stage name) who attends both Cohn in the hospital and Prior at home? There are extended scenes of Prior and the Angel, exchanging information, stories, prophecies. Back in the days when the supply of AZT was almost non-existent, Cohn manages to get some via his

connexions, and Belize manages to get some away from him for Prior. Later, after Cohn dies, he steals the rest of the supply, but not before calling Louis in to recite the Kaddish in thanks for the 'gift'. Of course, Louis doesn't want to. 'I'm not saying any ... Kaddish for him. The drugs OK, sure, fine, but no... way am I praying for him.

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