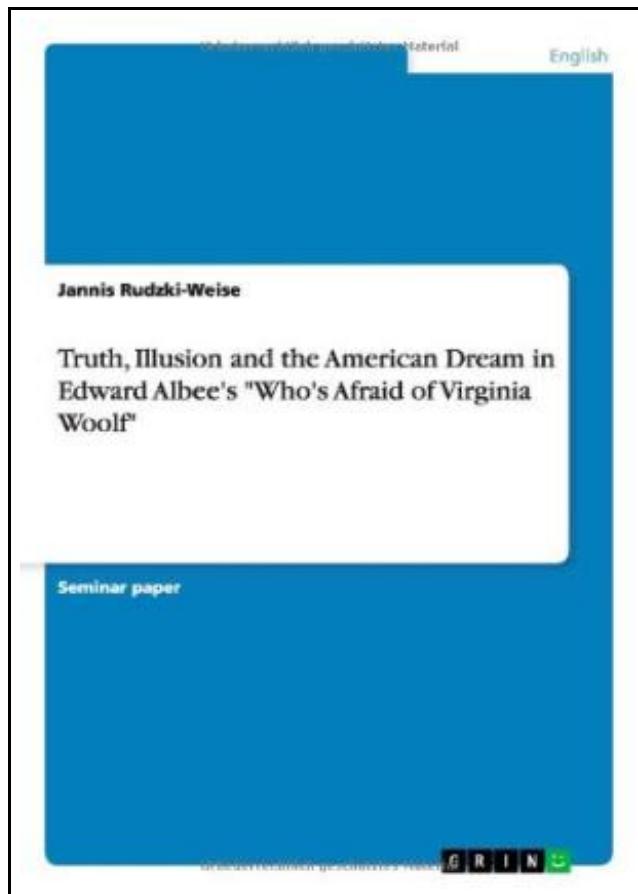


## Truth, Illusion and the American Dream in Edward Albees Whos Afraid of Virginia Woolf



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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.5in. x 0.3in. Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 7, University of Kassel, course: 20th Century British and American Drama, language: English, abstract: Edward Albees Whos Afraid of Virginia Woolf has become one of the major works in American dramatic history (Roundane 42) and a huge career boost for Albee himself. This is not surprising as this masterpiece is considered to be revolutionary and ambitious as well as scandalous and highly controversial at the same time. The play, which has been discussed so passionately, gives us four almost unrelievably nasty people who for something like three-and-a-half hours . . . take part in a drunken orgy of backbiting, bitchery, humiliation, verbal castration, exposure and physical mauling (Hilfer 121). Not only wanting to entertain the audience but also including social criticism, Albee makes use of essential themes which help to make people understand their situation and to make them realize the necessity to act in order to modify society. In the course of this paper, I am going to attempt to illustrate the importance of the American Dream and to establish a connection to the topic of truth and illusion which can be understood as the basis of Albees concept. To start with, I will exemplify different aspects of the American Dream and point out selected features of the characters that can be linked to the American Dream. In order to appreciate most of the professional criticism, it is of the utmost importance to look at the issue of truth and illusion that is predominant in many parts of the play. Examining the subject matter of illusion, I will concentrate on the imaginary son as well as the relationship between the...



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