*Myths & Ms. : an Inter-generational Play About Reincarnation and Abortion,* by Rosie Rosenzweig Anaphora Literary Press, 2018 reviewed by Cassidy Adams

In the play *Myths and Ms.*, Rosie Rosenzweig focus on the old debate of abortion and whether to be pro-life or pro-choice, as well as how religion and reincarnation play a role in this choice and how this idea may change throughout three generations of women. Rosenzweig is well-situated to write this book, as she is a resident scholar of the Brandeis University Women’s Studies Research Center and a theatre reviewer in Boston, as well as being the author *A Jewish Mother in Shangri-la,* a travel memoir, and many poems and articles focused on her studies in Buddhist and Jewish meditation.

Rosenzweig’s *Myths and Ms.* creates suspense and development on each page. Since this is a play, the point of view changes often and each character tells exactly how they are feeling. This allows the audience to see a scene exactly how it is being played and can easily visualize what is happening with the use of side information happening around the dialogue. Each character is faced with the debate of abortion, as they have experienced, gone through it, or are considering it. The play is fast paced and happens within a couple days, showing just how fast these topics can become personal. While the story does rush into tension, an obvious factor of debate, the audience is left to create their own voices in their heads of how the characters would talk based on cues and surrounding details; For example, “JACK: *Super-imposed. In a falsetto voice.* Well hello to you Jack and how did *YOU* manage in my absence? *Returning to his normal voice.* I ran out of the food that you left me. RUTH: Pizza! You could order a pizza. You always manage. JACK: Barely.” The conversations throughout this piece make the story realistic and easy to imagine. The story places focus on three women. The mother, Ruth has recently lost her mother, so her emotion throughout the piece is often upset and caring towards her other family members, wanting both support and to be let in. Her daughter Judith, is facing the reality of dealing with her thoughts on whether or not she should have an abortion, and is short-tempered and stressed, but still tries her best. The two later have a deep conversation in which Judith finds out that her mother did have two abortions in the past, which creates some understanding between them. Judith’s daughter, Tamar, who is unaware of both her mother and grandmother’s current and previous pregnancies and abortions, is faced with the surprising outcome that she too is pregnant and faced with a similar decision. This all adds suspense throughout the play for what will happen and how the other characters will react, as they all at one point or another are hiding information from each other. There is also the added suspense and calming element of Ruth’s late mother, Chayya, who although she has no dialogue manages to play an important role in all of these women’s lives, yet is hoping to find a place of reincarnation, which the story successfully hints at may be with Tamar. The play manages to show character development in each person as they face their struggles and jobs as parents of partners.

Those looking to question their choices in the argument of abortion and how it plays a role in these women’s lives may find this book of interest. Many might be able to find a connection to it, as it is real and raw in the struggle many women may or have faced. It is also a great play for anyone wanting to find suspense and honesty. Rosie Rosenzweig’s *Myths and Ms.* takes the real side of the debate of abortion and makes it more personal and real, so if you are questions which side to choose, you might just find an answer here.