

JOURNAL ENTRY #16

Act One of Donald Margulies' play *The Country House* introduces the characters and their situation. Act Two complicates the plot by bringing to the surface the underlying issues that each character brought to the house with them. It also raises new issues as the characters begin to interact within the confined space of the house and all it represents. There are sexual tensions, tender memories, and unaddressed grief at work, among other things.

Consider the developing arc for each character in the play. What new obstacles, discoveries, or revelations arise for Susie, Walter, Anna, Elliot, Michael, and Nell? Are there nuances on the subtext level that you see emerging into the text? Does each one seem to be on an upward or a downward arc? In what ways did their initial character traits prepare you for what happened in Act Two? What surprises, do you predict, are still in store? How will this play end?

Write without stopping for 30 minutes.