Now in its fourth edition, this is an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the critical study of drama. Using familiar examples of classic and contemporary works such as Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*, the book explores the essential elements of play texts, from character, dialogue and plot to theatrical space.

With more in-depth guidance on how to study plays in and as performance, both live and in recordings available online, the fourth edition of *Studying Plays* now includes:

- New examples throughout the book drawn from a range of 21st-century plays by established and emergent writers for diverse theatres and companies
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