

**A DRAMA
IN DUTCH**

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A Drama in Dutch by Z. Z.

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Z. Z.

**A DRAMA
IN DUTCH**

A DRAMA IN DUTCH

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A DRAMA IN DUTCH

BY

Z. Z.

Louis Zangwill

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BOOK I.

THE FIRST HOME-COMING.

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CHAPTER I.

THE VAN EIJKS.

ONE December evening, early in the sixties, Peter van Eijk and his wife sat eating a frugal supper in the little back parlour of their tobacconist shop in the City Road. A bright fire burned in the grate, for the weather was raw and foggy. The furniture of the room, though well worn and inartistic, had some pretensions to gentility. A stuffed horsehair couch, with mahogany back, chairs to match, and a round table, whose single central leg branched off into four hideously-carved paws, almost filled all the available space. A tall, quaint Dutch clock, reaching almost to the ceiling, stood in a corner; while in a wicker cradle quietly reposed their little one-year-old Maarten. A hanging-lamp cast a dull light on the two figures, who were discussing matters of great importance to themselves. There were traces of tears about the woman's eyes.