

**JEZEBEL:
A DRAMA.**

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Jezebel: A Drama. by P. Mordaunt Barnard

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P. MORDAUNT BARNARD

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A DRAMA.**

JEZEBEL

J E Z E B E L

A DRAMA

BY

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RECTOR OF BEADLEY, SURREY

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FRANCIS GRIFFITHS

34 MAIDEN LANE, STRAND, W.C.

1904

247661M

CHARACTERS

AHAB

JEZEBEL

ATHALIAH

ELIJAH

ELISHA

JEHU

BIDKAR

AHIJAH

JONAH

The High Priest of Baal.

*Priests of Baal and Ashoreth, Chorus of Boys and Girls,
Attendants, Slaves, etc.*

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JEZEBEL



PROLOGUE

SCENE.—*A Valley near Jezreel.*

Priests of Baal and Ashtoreth ; Chorus of Boys and Maidens ; People assembled in crowds, among them stands ELIJAH. AHAB and JEZEBEL seen approaching.

High Priest of Baal. Lo! the king and queen
draw near,
Favoured by the gods above ;
They have freed the land from fear,
Won for it great Baal's love.

For their people they have wrought
More than deeds of warlike might,
Peace and plenty they have brought,
Made us walk in Baal's light.

Now let the trumpets astound the still air,
 Now let your voices acclaim the blest pair. 10

*[Flourish of trumpets : as the KING and
 QUEEN enter, the Chorus sings :*

Boys. Hail to the glorious son of Omri!
 Hail to the ruler of Israel's tribes!
 Guiding his counsels with heavenly wisdom
 He hath obtained for us joys untold.

Blest the land whose king devoutly
 Worships Melkart, mighty lord,
 Pestilence and dearth 'tis freed from
 By the favour of the God.

Happy people, lift your voices,
 Praise with us great Omri's son. 20

Ahab, all hail to thee, servant of Melkart.

Maidens. Hail to the daughter of far-renowned
 Tyre!
 Hail to the teacher of truth divine!
 Mindful of piety learnt in childhood,
 She hath revealed to us mystic rites.

Blest the land whose queen devoutly
 Worships star-born Ashtoreth,
 Health and riches are its portion,
 For the Goddess smiles on it.

PROLOGUE

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Happy people, joining with us, 30
Ethbaal's great daughter praise.

Jezebel, hail to thee, Ashtoreth's handmaid.

All together. Ahab and Jezebel, blest of the gods
all hail.

Ahab. Full well this dear spontaneous burst of joy,
Which from the crowd's untutored lips springs forth
To join the practised choruses of boys
And maidens, shows that we have known the way
To win our people's love, by teaching them
The gods' true worship. We with thanks accept
Your loyal homage, even as 'tis meant, 40
As rightly due to the great deities—
To us, but as their representatives,
We come to share in your glad sacrifice
Of praise and thanksgiving for all the good
You have received throughout a prosperous year.

Jezebel. The king hath well expressed, as is his
wont,

His pious thoughts; yet in his piety
He hath too much abased himself: for, know,
All homage you can pay is rightly due
To awful monarchy: no pains can be 50
Too great in preparation to receive
Your rulers. Therefore should your words and
songs

Be fully practised and rehearsed before,
Lest ought of imperfection harshly grate
On royal ears, and mar your homage meet.