

**ESTHER WATERS. A  
PLAY IN FIVE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649511075

Esther Waters. A Play in Five Acts by George Moore

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE MOORE**

**ESTHER WATERS. A  
PLAY IN FIVE ACTS**



**ESTHER WATERS**  
**BY GEORGE MOORE**  
**A PLAY IN FIVE ACTS**

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

**LONDON : WILLIAM HEINEMANN**  
**1913**

THE  
MUSEUM OF  
ART AND HISTORY

Copyright 1913

ACT I  
THE SERVANTS' HALL AT WOODVIEW

ACT II  
KITCHEN IN A COTTAGE

ACT III  
LIVING-ROOM IN MRS. LEWIS'S COTTAGE

ACT IV  
A ROOM ABOVE THE BAR IN THE KING'S  
HEAD

ACT V  
A ROOM AT WOODVIEW

*Five years elapse between Acts IV and V*





*This play was produced for the first time at the Apollo Theatre, on December 10, 1911, at eight o'clock. The programme was as follows:*

# ESTHER WATERS

A Play in Five Acts

By GEORGE MOORE

The Play produced by J. CLIFFORD BROOKE

THE PEOPLE OF THE PLAY IN THE ORDER OF THEIR  
APPEARANCE

RANDAL	F. CREMLIN
WILLIAM	HARVEY BRABAN
SARAH	MISS EVELYN MARTHEZE
ESTHER WATERS	MISS LUCY WILSON
MRS. LATCH	MRS. A. B. TAPPING
MRS. BARFIELD	MISS CICELY HAMILTON
GINGER	NELSON KEYS
CARRIE ROE	MISS MABEL KNOWLES
MRS. SPIRES	MISS CLARE GREET
RACHEL BOYD	MISS ESME HUBBARD
MRS. RIVERS	MISS FRANCES WETHERELL
FRED PARSONS	ARNOLD LUCY
MRS. LEWIS	MISS MARY BROUGH
JACKIE {	FRANK BROWN
In Act 3	LEN. BETHELL
In Act 5	P. L. JULIAN
BARMAN	C. HERBERT HEWETSON
JOURNEYMAN	HERBERT BUNSTON
KETLEY	EDMUND GURNEY
BILL EVANS	CHARLES LASCELLES
1st POLICEMAN	E. STUART VINDEN
2nd POLICEMAN	

Some of the Artists appeared by permission of ARTHUR CRUICKSHANK,  
ROBERT COURTNEIDGE, MISS LILLIAN MCCARTHY, SIR HERBERT TREE,  
and MISS LYDIA YAVORSKA

Stage Manager VAL CUTHBERT

20

80

100

120

140

160

180

180

200

220 240

220

260

240

280

260

300

280

300

320

300

340

320

360

340

360

380

360

400

420

440

460

420

440

480

500



## PREFACE

THE Stage Society wished to "produce" *Esther Waters*, but alas! the vanity of man prompted the thought that it was beneath my dignity to submit the play to the judgment of the Committee, and so we found ourselves in an alley to which there seemed to be no outlet, until it occurred to me that I could not do better than to write to Bernard Shaw, and he sent me the following postcard in reply:

"I have tried every possible way of bringing about the correct position, but it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than to get any sort of delicate *nuance* of manners into the head of a well-intentioned British committee. Whelen's difficulty is that if he pledges himself to anything, his committee may throw him over. He knows by experience that a play has to be quite extraordinarily bad to obtain unanimous support. All our great achievements with Ibsen, Tolstoy, Tchekoff, &c., have been scraped through by snatched divisions, and majorities of one at that. An exquisite play by Tchekoff was actually hissed. You cannot conceive how inferior we are (a small circle excepted) to the common playgoer. However, I will go at Whelen again and make him understand that you do not propose to reopen the question of your choice of a profession with him. G. B. S."

The fragrant blending of kindliness and humour in this postcard seemed to leave me no choice but to send *Esther Waters* to my old friend with a note saying that if he could recommend the play to the Stage Society for performance I should be grateful, and that

ix