

**MARY
MAGDALENE: A
PLAY IN THREE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649546084

Mary Magdalene: A Play in Three Acts by Maurice Maeterlinck

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

MAURICE MAETERLINCK

**MARY
MAGDALENE: A
PLAY IN THREE ACTS**

MARY MAGDALENE

Mary Magdalene

A Play in Three Acts

BY
MAURICE MAETERLINCK

Translated by
ALEXANDER TELXEIRA DE MATTOS



NEW YORK
DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY
1910

COPYRIGHT, 1910,
BY MAURICE MAETERLINCK



Copy
of
the
original
manuscript
of
the
play
of
1875

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I have borrowed from Mr. Paul Heyse's drama, *Maria von Magdala*, the idea of two situations in my play, namely, at the end of the first act, the intervention of Christ, who stops the crowd raging against Mary Magdalene with these words, spoken behind the scenes: "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone;" and, in the third, the dilemma in which the great sinner finds herself, of saving or destroying the Son of God, according as she consents or refuses to give herself to a Roman.

Before setting to work, I asked the venerable German poet, whom I hold in the highest esteem, for his permission to develop those two situations, which, so to

Author's Note

speak, were merely sketched in his play, with its incomparably richer plot than mine; and I offered to recognize his rights in whatever manner he thought proper. My respectful request was answered with a refusal, none too courteous, I regret to say, and almost threatening.

From that moment, I was bound to consider that the words from the Gospel, quoted above, are common property; and that the dilemma of which I speak is one of those which occur pretty frequently in dramatic literature. It seemed to me the more lawful to make use of it inasmuch as I had happened to imagine it in the fourth act of *Joyzelle*, in the same year in which *Maria von Magdala* was published and before I was able to become acquainted with that play.

I will add that, excepting the principle of these two situations, in all that concerns

Author's Note

the subject of the play, the conduct of the action, the persons, the characters, the evolution and the atmosphere, our two works have absolutely nothing in common: not a phrase, not a cue of the one will be found in the other.

Having said this, I am happy to express to the aged master my gratitude for an intellectual benefit which is none the less great for being involuntary.

MAURICE MAETERLINCK.

