

**THE DREAMERS: A
PLAY IN
THREE ACTS**

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The Dreamers: A Play in Three Acts by Lennox Robinson

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LENNOX ROBINSON

**THE DREAMERS: A
PLAY IN
THREE ACTS**

THE DREAMERS

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

TWO PLAYS "Harvest," and "The
Clancy Name."

"PATRIOTS." A Play in three Acts.

THE DREAMERS
A PLAY IN THREE ACTS
BY LENNOX ROBINSON

MAUNSEL & COMPANY, LTD.
LONDON AND DUBLIN

1915

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To
W. B. YEATS

Vanquish'd in life, his death
By beauty made amends :
The passing of his breath
Won his defeated ends.

Brief life and hapless ? Nay :
Through death, life grew sublime.
Speak after sentence ? Yea :
And to the end of time.

LIONEL JOHNSON.

Dir
R. C. M.
11-6-47
60380

There is fact in this play and there is fancy, and only the student of those dreaming days will know where the one merges with the other. He is scarcely likely to approve of this attempt to recapture the emotion of an historical episode by means that are very often unhistorical; to his trained mind any study of Robert Emmet's insurrection which ignores Owen Kirroan, Anne Devlin and many another is unworthy of serious consideration. But selection and rejection of incidents and characters is the beginning and end of all playmaking; even in plays dealing with imaginary people there must always remain the country on the dark side of the moon unknown to the audience but as vivid to the playwright as the side that shines on the stage, how much more crowded must that dark side be in an historical play when into a few acts must be crushed the emotions and actions of hundreds of people during several months? That is the only defence I can offer to his just criticism on the omissions in the play.

He will also, probably, quarrel with the title of the play and say that Robert Emmet was practical in all his qualities, a soldier, a tactician, a most able organiser. I agree. But all these things were fused together for one purpose by the most practical quality of all—his dream. Dreams are the only permanent things in life, the only heritage that can be boarded or spent and yet handed down intact from generation to generation. Robert Emmet's dream came down to him through—how many?—generations. He passed it on undimmed. It is being dreamed to-day, as vivid as ever and—they say—as unpractical.

LENNOX ROBINSON.