

**THE WEAKER SEX: A
COMEDY IN
THREE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649486151

The Weaker Sex: A Comedy in Three Acts by Arthur W. Pinero

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

ARTHUR W. PINERO

**THE WEAKER SEX: A
COMEDY IN
THREE ACTS**

THE WEAKER SEX

A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

BY

ARTHUR W. PINERO

All rights reserved under the International Copyright Act. Performance forbidden, and right of representation reserved. Application for the right of performing the above piece must be made to the publishers.

BOSTON

WALTER H. BAKER & CO.

23498. 12. 10. 4
✓

THE FIRST ACT
RIGHTS AND WRONGS

At Mrs. Boyle-Cheuton's; Regent's Park.

THE SECOND ACT
THE LOVE THAT LIVES

At Lord Gillingham's; Kensington.

THE THIRD ACT
MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

At Mrs. Boyle-Cheuton's again.



COPYRIGHT, 1894, BY A. W. PINERO.

All rights reserved.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF
HUBERT GOULD SHAW
APR 28 1926

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY.

IRA LEE.

LADY VIVASH.

SYLVIA (her daughter).

DUDLEY SILCHESTER.

MRS. BOYLE-CHEWTON.

RHODA (her daughter).

MR. BARGUS, M.P.

LORD GILLINGHAM.

LADY GILLINGHAM.

LADY LIPTROTT.

HON. GEORGE LIPTROTT.

MR. HAWLEY HILL.

MRS. HAWLEY HILL.

MR. WADE GREEN.

PETCH (servant at Mrs. Boyle-Chewton's).

SPENCER (servant at Lord Gillingham's).



INTRODUCTORY NOTE

ALTHOUGH "The Weaker Sex" was produced in London but a month before "The Profligate" first saw the light, and just a year after "Sweet Lavender," it really belongs to an earlier period of Mr. Pinero's work; indeed, its composition may be said to date between "Lords and Commons" and the Court series of farces. It was this play, as I have stated elsewhere, that Mr. Pinero offered to Mr. John Clayton and Mr. Arthur Cecil when in the winter of 1884 they appealed to him in their sore need for a piece, their management of the Court being at that time in anything but a flourishing condition; and it was only Mr. Clayton's uncertainty about "The Weaker Sex" that led to Mr. Pinero offering "The Magistrate" in its place, a turn of events which proved most fortunate for the Court management. Meanwhile, "The Weaker Sex" was laid by for about four years, when Mr. and Mrs. Kendal secured the rights of the play, and produced it tentatively at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on September 28, 1888. The result was so encouraging that when, after their tour, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal arranged with Mrs.

John Wood to take the new Court Theatre for a season in the spring of 1889, they signalized their reappearance in town by the production of Mr. Pinero's comedy. It was on Saturday, March 16, 1889, that this play was first seen in London, but it must be noted that it was not presented here exactly as it had been in Manchester; for after the provincial trial Mr. Pinero abolished the conventional "happy ending" he had originally contrived, which was found to be unsatisfactory, and printed the play as it is now printed.

The following is a copy of the "first night" programme at the Court Theatre, London:—

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

7

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF MRS. JOHN WOOD.

APPEARANCE OF MR. AND MRS. KENDAL.

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 16, AT 8.30,

AND EVERY EVENING,

Will be Performed an Original Modern Play in Three Acts,

Entitled

THE WEAKER SEX,

BY

A. W. PINERO.

LORD GILLINGHAM . . . Mr. A. W. DENISON.
HON. GEORGE LIPTROTT . . . Mr. E. ALLAN AYNESWORTH.
MR. BARGUS, M. P. . . . Mr. EDWARD RIGHTON.
CAPTAIN JESSETT . . . Mr. A. B. FRANCIS.
DUDLEY SILCHESTER . . . Mr. W. H. VERNON.
IRA LEE Mr. KENDAL.
MR. HAWLEY HILL . . . Mr. W. NEWALL.
MR. WADE GREEN . . . Mr. ERIC LEWIS.
SPENCER (servant at Lord
Gillingham's) . . . Mr. H. DEANE.
LADY GILLINGHAM . . . Miss VIOLET VANBRUGH.
LADY LIPTROTT . . . Miss PATTY CHAPMAN.
LADY STRUDDOCK . . . Miss E. MATHEWS.