

**VICTOR HUGO'S
DRAMA OF
RUY BLAS**

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Victor Hugo's Drama of Ruy Blas by Edwin Booth

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EDWIN BOOTH

**VICTOR HUGO'S
DRAMA OF
RUY BLAS**

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Edited by

William Winter.



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As presented by

Edwin Booth.



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The Prompt-Book.

Edited by William Winter.

(*Waris*)
César & Victor, Hugo's Drama

of

— *Ruy Blas* —

As Presented by

Edwin Booth.



"I think of her as prisoners think of liberty—as the blind dream of the light. I love her! that's all I know—I love her."

"Be brave! ascend the hill at whose high top thy fortune smiles and woox thee to embrace her."

"Make me worthy to offer her, as shield and sword—the queen, my arm; the woman, my devotion—a love most pure, most loyal. My dream is realized, my joy complete—I have no more to fear."

"He struck me on the heart. He saw me weep and smiled; he heard me pray, and smiled. . . . Thy lacquey triumphs. In me behold thy executioner."

"You forgive, you love me! 'T is all I lived for, and is worth dying for. Thy secret's safe. Adieu."



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Preface.



THIS drama, though not, perhaps, impressive in the reading, has been found effective in the representation. The present version of it is a free translation,—by an unknown hand,—considerably altered from the original, and furnished with Edwin Booth's stage directions. The French piece, by Victor Hugo, is in five acts, and it incorporates into the action the character of Don Cesar de Bazan, the cousin, and the victim, of Don Salluste. By excising that part, by giving some slight prominence to the part of Gudiel, and by a few transpositions and textual changes, the piece is made to tell its story in three acts, as fully as it would otherwise do in five. The original is in verse. An English translation of it, also in verse,—but in four acts,—was produced at the Princess's Theatre, London, on October 27th, 1860, under the auspices of Charles Fechter, who personated Ruy Blas; and this, in an adapted form, has been made known on the American stage. The period of Ruy Blas is the end of the 17th century—1692. The monarch referred to in its text—Charles II., of Spain—reigned over that country from 1661 to 1700, and was involved in several wars with Louis XIV., of France, whose policy and force alike aimed at securing the succession of the Spanish crown to the House of Bourbon.

Harriet

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"There is a garden in her face,
Where roses and white lilies blow."—OLD SONG.

"A youth to fortune and to fame unknown."—GRAY.

"I thought of tales that by the winter hearth
Old gossips tell—how maidens sprung from kings
Have stooped from their high sphere: how love, like death,
Levels all ranks, and lays the shepherd's crook
Beside the sceptre."—BULWER.

"I will be
The sun o' thy life, faithful through every season;
And thou shalt be my flower perennial,
My bud of beauty, my imperial rose,
My passion-flower; and I will wear thee here,
Here on my heart, and thou shalt never fade!
I'll love thee mightily, my queen."—BARRY CORNWALL.

"If thou didst ever anything believe,
Believe how I love thee, believe how near
My soul is to its doom."—KEATS.

"She loves, and she confesses too;
There's then at last no more to do."—COWLEY.

"What can it matter, Margaret,
What songs below the waning stars
The lion-heart Plantagenet
Sang, looking through his prison-bars?
Exquisite Margaret, who can tell
The last wild thought of Chatelet,
Just ere the falling axe did part
The burning brain from the true heart,
Even in her sight he loved so well?"—TENNYSON.

"The potent poison quite o'er-crows my spirit,
The rest is silence."—SHAKESPEARE.

