

**HANDS AROUND
(REIGEN) A CYCLE
OF TEN DIALOGUES**

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Hands around (Reigen) a cycle of ten dialogues by Arthur Schnitzler

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ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

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[REIGEN]

A CYCLE OF TEN DIALOGUES

By

ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

COMPLETELY RENDERED
INTO ENGLISH

AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION

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By

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INTRODUCTION

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Humanity seems gayest when dancing on the brink of a volcano. The culture of a period preceding a social cataclysm is marked by a spirit of light wit and sophisticated elegance which finds expression in a literature of a distinct type. This literature is light-hearted, audacious and self-conscious. It can treat with the most charming insouciance subjects which in another age would have been awkward or even vulgar. But with the ripener experience of a period approaching its end the writers feel untrammelled in the choice of theme by pride or prejudice knowing that they will never transgress the line of good taste.

So it was in the declining days of the Roman civilization when Lucian of Samosata wrote his *Dialogues of the Hetærai* and countless poets penned their intricate epigrams on the art and experience of love. So it was in England when the fine vigor of the Elizabethan and Miltonic age gave way to the Restoration and the calculating brilliance of a Congreve or a Wycherly.