

# **A MUMMER'S TALE**

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A mummer's tale by Anatole France

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**ANATOLE FRANCE**

**A MUMMER'S  
TALE**



A MUMMER'S TALE  
BY ANATOLE FRANCE

A TRANSLATION BY  
CHARLES E. ROCHE

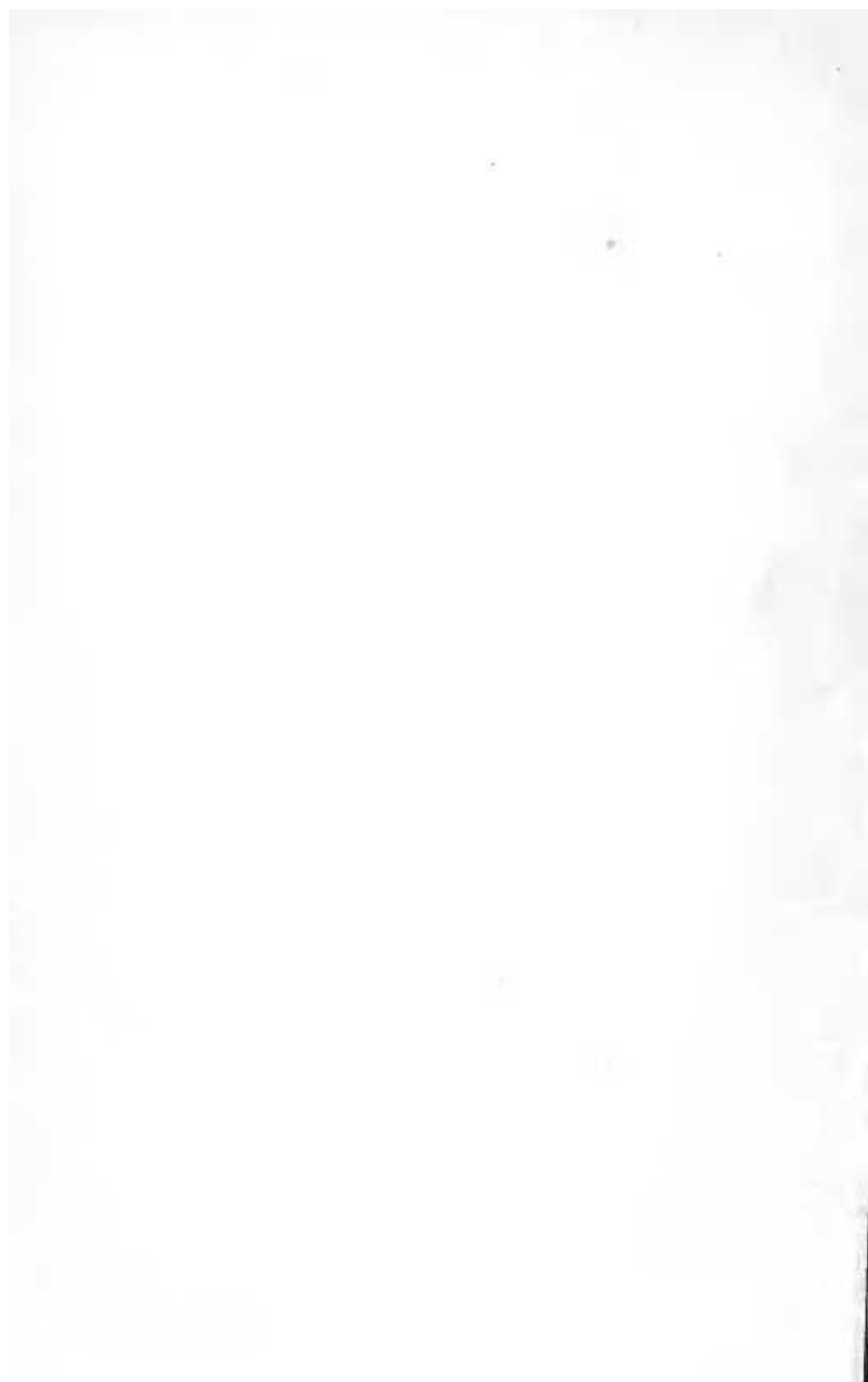


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## CHAPTER I



THE scene was an actress's dressing-room at the Odéon.

Félicie Nanteuil, her hair powdered, with blue on her eyelids, rouge on her cheeks and ears, and white on her neck and shoulders, was holding out her foot to Madame Michon, the dresser, who was fitting on a pair of little black slippers with red heels. Dr. Trublet, the physician attached to the theatre, and a friend of the actress's, was resting his bald cranium on a cushion of the divan, his hands folded upon his stomach and his short legs crossed.

"What else, my dear?" he inquired of her.

"Oh, I don't know! Fits of suffocation; giddiness; and, all of a sudden, an agonizing pain, as if I were going to die. That's the worst of all."

"Do you sometimes feel as though you must laugh or cry for no apparent reason, about nothing at all?"