# EASY SPANISH PLAYS

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Easy Spanish Plays by Ruth Henry

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## **RUTH HENRY**

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RUTH, HENRY
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, LOS ANGELES

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HENRIETTA BERTHOLEAU, ETHLEEN DISMUKES,
FRANK GONZALES, AND FRANK BAUMGARTNEE
PRESIDENTS OF EL CÍRCULO HISPÁNICO
AND CLEVER PROMOTERS AND ACTORS OF THESE PLAYS
THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED

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### PREFACE

THE lack of easy and short plays, suited to beginners in the study of Spanish, inspired these efforts.

During my years of teaching in high school, the students in Spanish classes and in Spanish clubs constantly asked for short plays. Little material was available, although I spent many hours during my trips in Spain searching in book stores. This vain search aroused the desire to prepare for my eager pupils some simple plays in an easy style which would best appeal to them.

All of these little plays have been produced before audiences by my former pupils and have received a warm welcome.

The object of the little skits is not merely to inspire interest, but also to meet the need of conversational aids. So many of the books of simple tales and anecdotes which interest beginners are not models for everyday conversation. Such texts, to be sure, stimulate a desire to read on into Spanish literature; but the conversation of simple, modern drama most nearly meets the demand we hear for using Spanish. And we know how "meatless" and unnatural is a long continued system of asking questions and demanding their implied answers. Conversation in life is not thus conducted.

Both conversation and literature are essential to a fair knowledge of Spanish, and we cannot afford to neglect either. Lack of opportunities to practice the speech outside of class hampers many an ambitious student. A spoken language, like piano playing, needs actual practice, and that frequently, not only in order to progress, but also in order to remember the material once learned. The best way for meeting this extra practice in many localities is confined to social language clubs. The memorizing of plays and the rehearsals consequently necessary fix the idioms and commonplace expressions in the mind in a way no other drill can do.

It is hoped that these plays will be of service not only as an easy reading text, but that they will afford conversational material, and will also be an enjoyable outlet to the dramatic instincts of beginners in the musical language of our southern neighbors.

This preface would be incomplete without an expression of gratitude to my friend, Senora de Whenthoff, and to Professor Espinosa, of Stanford University, who have both given me such kind and valuable help.

RUTH HENRY.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California. August 19, 1917.

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