

**THE UNSPEAKABLE  
GENTLEMAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649375226

The unspeakable gentleman by J. P. Marquand

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. P. MARQUAND**

**THE UNSPEAKABLE  
GENTLEMAN**





"Ah, mademoiselle, . . . stay but a moment!"

[Page 516

*THE*  
*UNSPEAKABLE GENTLEMAN*

*BY*  
*J. P. MARQUAND*

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

*WITH A FRONTISPIECE BY*  
*A. I. KELLER*

*NEW YORK*  
*CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS*  
1922

Copyright, 1922, by  
Charles Scribner's Sons.

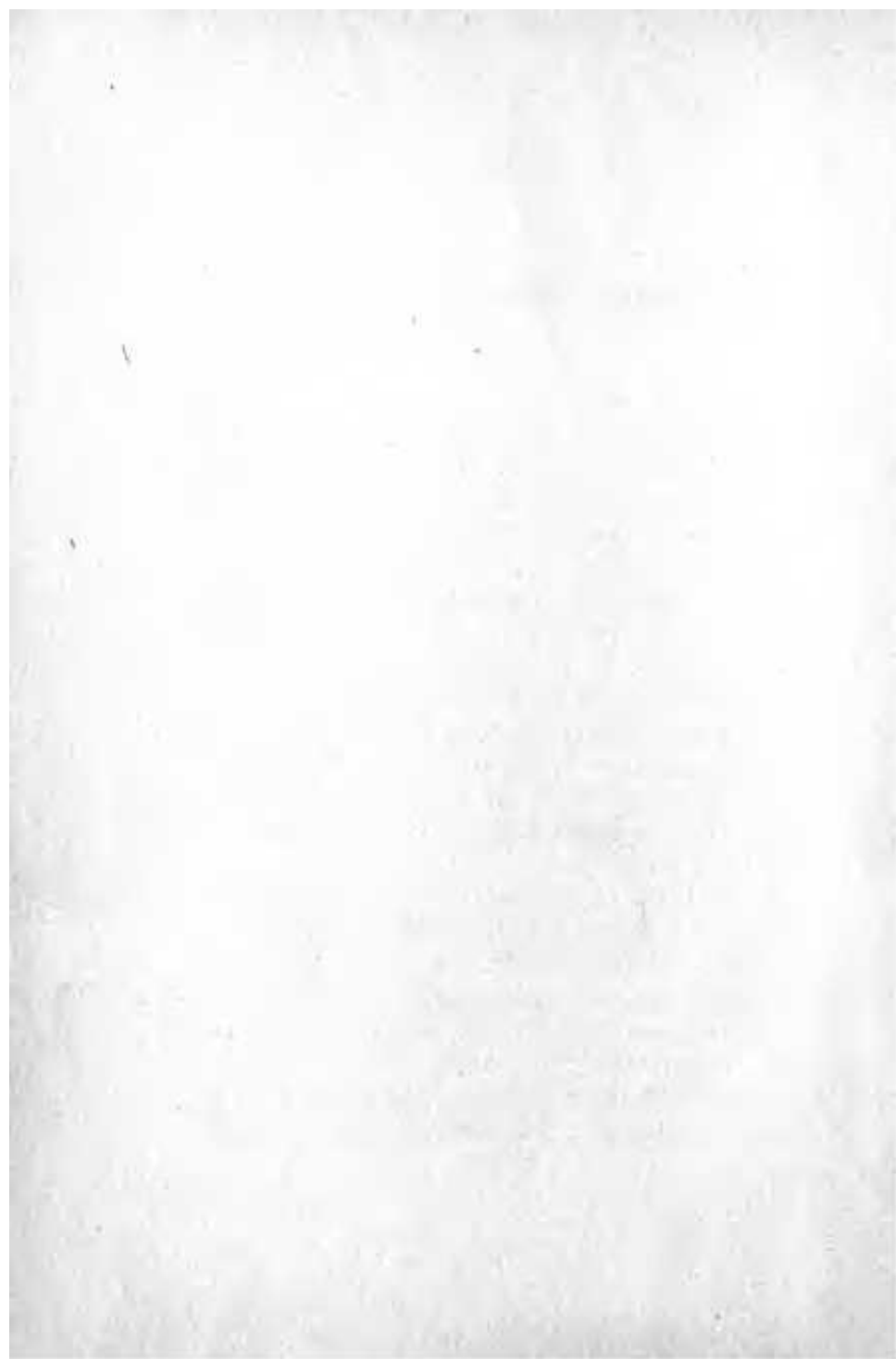
Copyright, 1922, by the Curtis Publishing Co.

Printed in the United States of America



***THE UNSPEAKABLE GENTLEMAN***





UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

## THE UNSPEAKABLE GENTLEMAN

### I

I HAVE seen the improbable turn true too often not to have it disturb me. Suppose these memoirs still exist when the French royalist plot of 1805 and my father's peculiar role in it are forgotten. I cannot help but remember it is a restless land across the water. But surely people will continue to recollect. Surely these few pages, written with the sole purpose of explaining my father's part in the affair, will not degenerate into anything so pitifully fanciful as the story of a man who tried his best to be a bad example because he could not be a good one.

It was my Uncle Jason who was with me when I learned of my father's return to America. I still remember the look of sympathetic concern on his broad, good-natured face, as I read my father's letter. There was anxiety written there as he watched me, for my uncle was a kindly, thoughtful man. For the moment he seemed to have quite

[ 1 ]

M37274

---

---

THE UNSPEAKABLE GENTLEMAN

---

---

forgotten the affairs of his counting house, and the inventory of goods from France, which a clerk had placed before him. Of late he had taken in me an unaccustomed interest, in no wise allayed by the letter I was holding.

"So he is here," said my Uncle Jason.

"He is just arrived," I answered.

"I had heard of it," he remarked thoughtfully. "And you will see him, Henry?"

"Yes," I replied, "since she asked me to."

"She had asked you? Your mother? You did not tell me that." His voice had been sharp and reproachful, and then he had sighed. "After all," he went on more gently, "he is your father, and you must respect him as such, Henry, hard as it is to do so. I am sorry, almost, that he and I have quarreled, for in many ways your father was a remarkable man who might have gone far, except for his failing. God knows I did my best to help him."

And he sighed again at the small success of his efforts and returned to the papers that lay before him on the counting house table. His business had become engrossing of late, and gave him little leisure.

"Do not be too hard on him, Henry," he said, as I departed.