

**THE ENCHANTED  
COTTAGE; A FABLE,  
IN THREE ACTS**

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The enchanted cottage; a fable, in three acts by Sir Arthur Pinero

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**SIR ARTHUR PINERO**

**THE ENCHANTED  
COTTAGE; A FABLE,  
IN THREE ACTS**



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# THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE

A FABLE

IN THREE ACTS

BY

ARTHUR PINERO



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LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN



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5182  
E6  
1922

*Copyright, 1921, by Arthur Pinero.*

*This play was produced in London, at the Duke  
of York's Theatre, on Wednesday, March 1st,  
1922.*

## THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY

OLIVER BASHFORTH (*late Lieut. 8th Bn. Royal  
\*\*\*\*\* Regiment*).

MRS. SMALLWOOD (*his mother*).

RUPERT SMALLWOOD SMALLWOOD (*his stepfather*).

MAJOR MURRAY HILLGROVE, D.S.O., M.C.

REV. CHARLES CORSELLIS (*Rector of Fittlehurst*).

MRS. CORSELLIS.

LAURA PENNINGTON.

MRS. MINNETT.

RIGG.

FIRST MARRIED COUPLE.

SECOND MARRIED COUPLE.

THIRD MARRIED COUPLE.

THE SECOND WITCH.

THE THIRD WITCH.

THE THREE BRIDESMAIDS.

THE FOURTH BRIDESMAID.

CHERUBS, IMPS, CHILDREN.

(*Shadows*).

*The scene is laid at a cottage on the edge of Fittlehurst  
Park, Lord Wisborough's seat in Sussex.*

ACT I.

RELICS OF THE WAR.

A Spring morning.

ACT II.

STRANGE HAPPENINGS, AND A DREAM.

A month later. Evening.

ACT III.

ETERNAL TRUTH.

The following day. Afternoon.





# THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE

## THE FIRST ACT

### RELICS OF THE WAR

x

*The scene represents the inner hall, entrance hall, and staircase of a cottage in the country. Much of the inner hall is of great age, and there are signs in its material and structure that it once formed part of a more important building. (See Act II, page 99.)*

*The inner hall occupies the portion of the stage nearest to the spectator. On the right is a bay-window, casemented, with a window-seat; on the left is a vast fireplace. The fire is laid, but is not burning.*

*The wall of the inner hall opposite to the spectator is broken by a wide arch, and beyond are the staircase and entrance hall. The front-door of the cottage opens into the entrance hall from the right, and the foot of the stairs, which spring from about the centre of the hall, faces the door. On the left, between the staircase and the farther wall of the*

*inner hall, runs a passage leading, as it may be supposed, to the kitchen and to the back-door and stable-yard.*

*The inner hall is furnished simply and appropriately as a living room. On the left, at a short distance from the fireplace, are a settee, comfortably upholstered, and a round table. There is a chair behind the table and another on the right of it. On the nearer side of the fireplace is a long-case clock; close to the clock, fronting the round table, there is a capacious arm-chair; against the wall between the fireplace and the left-hand corner of the room is an oaken dresser with ornamental china and glass on its shelves; and between the dresser and the fireplace is a large basket piled high with logs.*

*On the right, parallel with, but at some distance from, the bay-window, is an antique refectory-table. A chair is set at either end of the table and on each side of it. Standing against the wall at the farther side of the window are a writing-table and chair; against the wall on the nearer side is an oaken coffer; and against the wall between the left-hand corner of the room and the opening of the arch there is a small table with a tobacco-jar, an array of pipes, a match-bowl, and a box of cigarettes and another of cigars upon it.*