

**WITHOUT THE
WALLS; A
READING PLAY**

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Without the walls; a reading play by Katrina Trask

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KATRINA TRASK

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WALLS; A
READING PLAY**

Trask, Mrs. Kate (includes)

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A READING PLAY

BY

KATRINA TRASK

Author of "In the Vanguard," "The Mighty
and the Lowly," etc.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

New York

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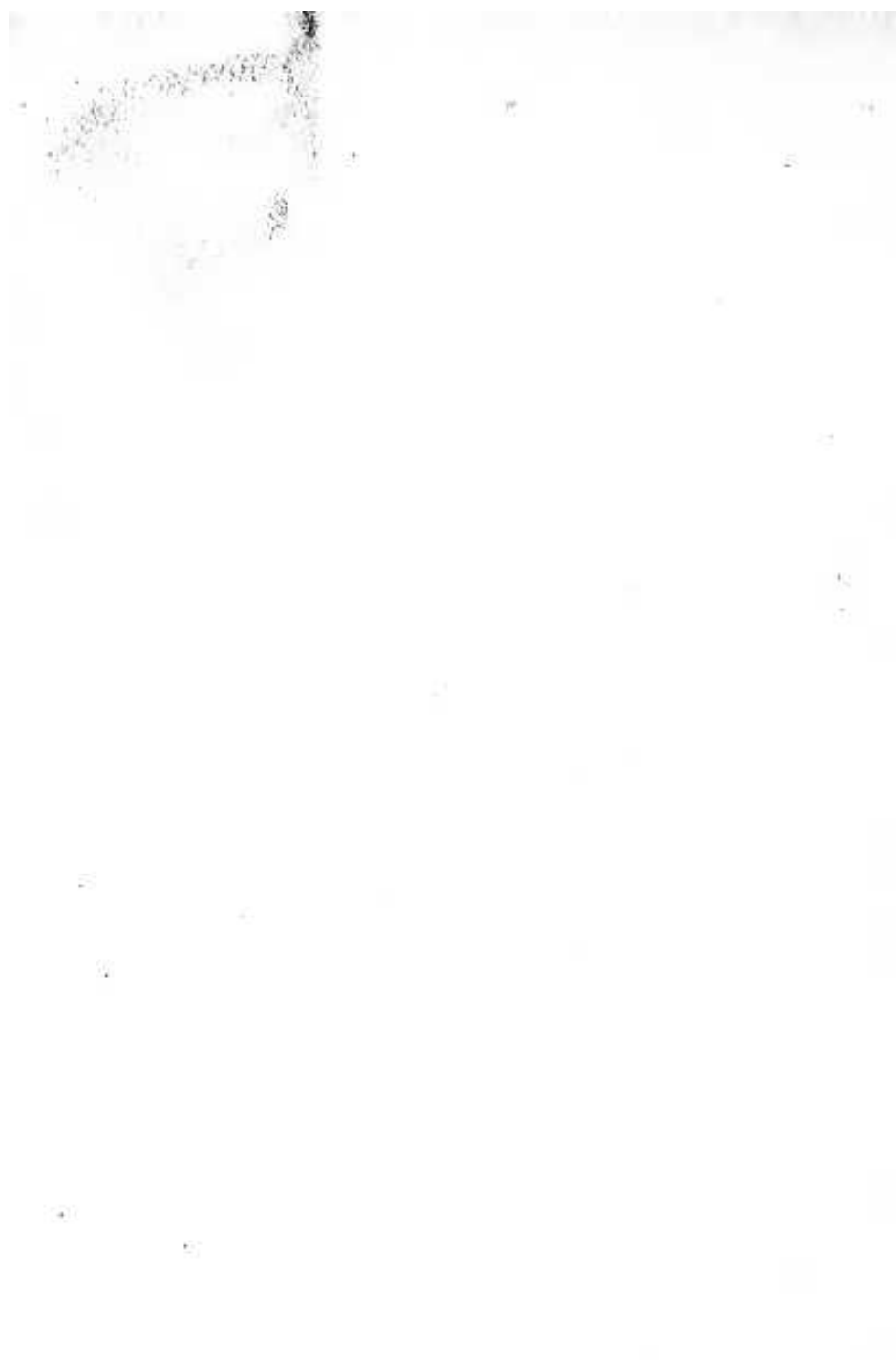
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ACT I
SCENE I



CALIFORNIA

WITHOUT THE WALLS

ACT I

SCENE I

THE YEAR 33 A. D.

A Court in the House of Jahdiel, the Pharisee, in the City of Jerusalem. The House stands toward the Eastern Gate of the City, not far from the Temple.

To the right, a door enters into the private apartments of Alceda, the daughter of the House: to the left, a gate opens out on to the main road: in the background is a small, private gate that opens on to a by-road.

The Court is large and beautiful, filled with oleander trees in full blossom: beneath them are marble seats. A fountain plays in the centre of the Court: beside it is a special marble seat a little apart from the others: upon this is lying a lute and a scarf of gauze.

Beneath the trees near the fountain a merry black-eyed boy is lying lazily on his back, looking up, through the branches of the trees, to the blue sky.

He is dressed in the picturesque parti-coloured garments of a house-servant of Judea: he is softly playing a flute.

A little farther off sits a large matronly Hebrew woman intently sewing a bright coloured fabric: she has a stern face and quick eager eyes that seem constantly on the alert: this is Elizabeth the nurse of Alceda. She looks with much contempt at the lazy boy lying on the grass.

ELIZABETH

David! David!

The flute playing continues.

ELIZABETH

Is the boy deaf? David!

DAVID

Laughing mockingly.

"Deaf-David!" That is not my name.

ELIZABETH

Your name makes not a dog's difference. What I want to know is this—have you done the work I bade you do? Did you sweep the inner Court?—Did you bring the water from the well?—Did you gather the rose leaves?

DAVID

Smiling and showing his very white teeth.

I did none of these things—I have been far too busy all day long.

ELIZABETH

Busy! Ha, busy! This morning you were throwing dice. I know it: Miriam saw you. I will tell the Master.

DAVID

Impudently.

And I will tell him it is not true. He will believe me: he thinks all women are liars.

ELIZABETH

Starting.

How know you that?

DAVID

How do I know when the sun shines, silly, or when the rain rains? By using my eyes.

ELIZABETH

Have you done nothing since you came in from playing dice? That was three hours ago.