

**BODY AND SOUL: A  
PLAY IN  
FOUR ACTS**

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Body and Soul: A Play in Four Acts by Arnold Bennett

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**ARNOLD BENNETT**

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PLAY IN  
FOUR ACTS**



# BODY AND SOUL

*A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS*

BY

ARNOLD BENNETT

Author of "Judith," "Clayhanger,"  
"Sacred and Profane Love," "The  
Old Wives' Tale," "The Title," etc.

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## CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

BLANCHE NIXON

LADY MAB INFOLD

MRS. CLEWS

EDITH TUNNICLIFF

PARLOURMAID

AARON DRAPER

EZRA CLEWS

PROCOPO

THE MARQUIS OF WIX

WAITER

## ACTS AND SCENES

### ACT I

LADY MAB'S SITTING-ROOM IN THE GRAND BABYLON  
HOTEL

Scene I. *Morning.*

Scene II. *The same morning; immediately after  
Scene I.*

### ACT II

SAME AS ACT I

Scene I. *Evening of the same day.*

Scene II. *The same evening; immediately after Scene  
I.*

Scene III. *The following morning.*

### ACT III

MRS. CLEWS' DRAWING-ROOM AT BURSLEY

Scene I. *Afternoon of the same day.*

Scene II. *Afternoon of the following day.*

### ACT IV

SAME AS ACT I

*Morning of the next day but one.*



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# BODY AND SOUL

## ACT I

### SCENE I

*Lady Mab Infold's private sitting-room in the Grand Babylon Hotel. The furniture and decorations are in the most extreme manner of the Roger Fry school. Doors centre, left, and right.*

*TIME: Morning. Lady Mab is alone.  
Enter Waiter, followed by Aaron Draper.*

*Waiter. Mr. Aaron Draper.*

*[Exit Waiter.]*

*Lady Mab [hastening eagerly towards Draper].  
Darling, may I tell you a secret?*

*Aaron. Tell.*

*Lady Mab. At first I thought your name was absurd. Now I love it. Aaron!*

*Aaron. Pretty good old ecclesiastical name.*

*Lady Mab. But do be David for a bit.*

*Aaron. David?*

*Lady Mab.* David would have kissed me ten times before this. [*They embrace tenderly.*] Would you mind kissing my eyes? [*Aaron does so.*] Ah! [*with a sigh of ecstasy*]. You kiss well, Let us sit.

*Aaron.* What are you going to do with that pipe, Mab?

*Lady Mab* [*filling a pipe*]. Smoke it, of course.

*Aaron* [*incredulous*]. You aren't!

*Lady Mab.* Why not? Heaps of girls at the Slade smoke pipes.

*Aaron.* What's the Slade?

*Lady Mab.* You don't mean to say you've never heard of the Slade!

*Aaron.* Oh! That art student place.

*Lady Mab.* It's the best school of art in England.

*Aaron.* Still——

*Lady Mab.* I suppose girls may smoke?

*Aaron.* Certainly.

*Lady Mab.* Then why shouldn't they smoke pipes? What's the difference between smoking a pipe and smoking cigarettes? Each of them is merely a device for getting the vapour of tobacco into the human mouth. Wood or paper, what can it matter?

*Aaron.* True.

*Lady Mab.* The objection to women smoking pipes is purely conventional.

*Aaron.* True.

*Lady Mab.* Moreover, all you men say that pipes are the healthiest form of smoking and cigarettes the most vicious.

*Aaron.* True.

*Lady Mab.* Well, then. There's no answer to the argument. Give me a match, please.

*Aaron* [*handing matches*]. There's only one answer.

*Lady Mab.* What is it?

*Aaron.* May I have a look at that pipe? [*She gives him the pipe. He puts it in his mouth.*] And may I trouble you for a light?

*Lady Mab.* Aaron, you are being Aaron again.

*Aaron.* May I trouble you for a light?

*Lady Mab* [*as she strikes a match*]. But this is no answer to argument.

*Aaron* [*smoking*]. On the contrary, it is a conclusive answer.

*Lady Mab.* You're very irrational.

*Aaron.* I am.

*Lady Mab.* Then when we're married I can't smoke a pipe.

*Aaron.* You *can*, of course, but you won't. Neither when we're married nor while we're engaged.

*Lady Mab.* We've been engaged twenty-four hours.

*Aaron* [*looking at his watch*]. About.

*Lady Mab.* And I suppose, darling, all this signifies that you're one of those terrible northern