MADONNA DIANORA; A PLAY IN VERSE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649194629

Madonna Dianora; a play in verse by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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BY

HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL

Translated from the German By Harriet Betty Boas



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THE GORHAM PRESS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

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MADONNA DIANORA



MADONNA DIANORA

La demente: "Conosci la storia di Madonna Dianora?"

Il medico: "Vagamente. Non ricordo piu." . . .

Sogno d'un mattino di primavera.

The garden of a sombre Lombardian Palace. To the right, the wall of a house, which is at an angle with the moderately high garden wall that encloses it. The lower portion of the house is built of rough granite, above which rests a strip of plain marble forming a sill which, under each window, is adorned with a lion's head in repose. Two windows are visible, each one having a small angular balcony with a stone railing, spaced sufficiently to show the feet of those standing there. Both windows are curtained to the floor. The garden is a mere lawn with a few scattered fruit trees. The corner of the garden between the wall and the house is crowded with high boxwood bushes. A leafy grapevine, trained over stunted chestnut-trees forms an arbor which completely fills the left side of the stage; only its entrance is visible. The arbor slants irregularly to the left rear. Behind the rear wall there may be seen (by the gallery spectator) a narrow path beyond which is the neighbor's garden wall-