

**JOHN FERGUSON A
PLAY IN
FOUR ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760579654

John Ferguson a Play in Four Acts by John G. Ervine

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

JOHN G. ERVINE

**JOHN FERGUSON A
PLAY IN
FOUR ACTS**

JOHN FERGUSON

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

NOVELS

MRS. MARTIN'S MAN.
ALICE AND A FAMILY.

SHORT STORIES

EIGHT O'CLOCK AND OTHER STUDIES.

PLAYS

JANE CLEGG.
FOUR IRISH PLAYS—
MIXED MARRIAGE.
THE MAGNANIMOUS LOVER.
THE CRITICS.
THE ORANGEMAN.

D
JOHN FERGUSON
A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS
By ST. JOHN G. ERVINE

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
NEW YORK

~~23597.1.32.3~~

✓ B

~~840~~
~~81605~~
✓

23597.1.32.3

✓ B

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
BEQUEST OF
ROSWELL P. DAGUE
FEBRUARY 23, 1933

COPYRIGHT 1925, ST. JOHN G. ERVINE.

All rights reserved.

TO
THE MEMORY OF MY GRANDMOTHER
MARGARET GREER

CHARACTERS

JOHN FERGUSON, *a farmer.*

SARAH FERGUSON, *his wife.*

ANDREW FERGUSON, *his son.*

HANNAH FERGUSON, *his daughter.*

JAMES CAESAR, *a grocer.*

HENRY WITHEROW, *a farmer and miller.*

"CLUTIE" JOHN MAGRATH, *a beggar.*

SAM MAWHINNEY, *a postman.*

SERGEANT KERNAGHAN, R.I.C.

TWO CONSTABLES.

A CROWD OF MEN AND WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Scene is laid in the kitchen of a farm-house in County Down.

The Time is the late summer of the year 188-.

"CLUTIE" is a slang expression meaning "left-handed."

*There is an interval of an hour between the First and Second Acts ;
of a night between the Second and Third ; and of a fortnight between
the Third and Fourth.*

ACT I

It is the afternoon of a warm day in the late summer of the year 188—, and soft sunlight enters the kitchen of JOHN FERGUSON'S farm through the windows and the open door. The kitchen is comfortably furnished, although the FERGUSONS are no longer prosperous, for MRS. FERGUSON, who is now sitting by the door, mending socks, takes great pride in maintaining the appearance of fortune. She is a short, stout, healthy woman, pleasant and agreeable even when she is as harassed as she now is, and her mind is moulded in the kindness of an Ulster woman. She is not a very intelligent woman, and so her sympathies are sometimes flattened by her lack of perception, but, within her limitations, she is an excellent wife and a very good mother.

Her husband, JOHN FERGUSON, is sitting in front of the turf fire, with a rug wrapped round his legs. He is reading a large Bible to himself, and his lips move as if he were silently pronouncing each word to himself. He is an elderly, tired, delicate-looking man, and his dark beard is turning grey. His eyes are set deeply in his head, and they are full of a dark, glowing colour. His voice is slow but very firm, although his words are gentle. He looks like a portrait of Moses—not that Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt and was a great captain of hosts, but the Moses