

**PLAYS**

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Plays by Anton Pavlovich Chekhov & Julius West

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**ANTON PAVLOVICH CHEKHOV & JULIUS WEST**

# **PLAYS**



PLAYS  
BY  
ANTON TCHEKOFF

SECOND SERIES

ON THE HIGH ROAD : THE  
PROPOSAL : THE WEDDING :  
THE BEAR : A TRAGEDIAN  
IN SPITE OF HIMSELF : THE  
ANNIVERSARY : THE THREE  
SISTERS : THE CHERRY  
ORCHARD

TRANSLATED WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

JULIUS WEST

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
ON THE HIGH ROAD . . . . .	9
THE PROPOSAL . . . . .	39
THE WEDDING . . . . .	59
THE BEAR . . . . .	79
A TRAGEDIAN IN SPITE OF HIMSELF . . . . .	99
THE ANNIVERSARY . . . . .	109
THE THREE SISTERS . . . . .	129
THE CHERRY ORCHARD . . . . .	211





## INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION

THE last few years have seen a large and generally un-systematic mass of translations from the Russian flung at the heads and hearts of English readers. The ready acceptance of Chekhov has been one of the few successful features of this irresponsible output. He has been welcomed by British critics with something like affection. Mr. Bernard Shaw has several times remarked: "Every time I see a play by Chekhov, I want to chuck all my own stuff into the fire." Others, having no such valuable property to sacrifice on the altar of Chekhov, have not hesitated to place him side by side with Ibsen, and the other established institutions of the new theatre. For these reasons it is pleasant to be able to chronicle the fact that, by way of contrast with the casual treatment normally handed out to Russian authors, the publishers are issuing the complete dramatic works of this author. In 1912 they brought out a volume containing four Chekhov plays, translated by Marian Fell. All the dramatic works not included in her volume are to be found in the present one. With the exception of Chekhov's masterpiece, "The Cherry Orchard" (translated by the late Mr. George Calderon in 1912), none of these plays have been previously published in book form in England or America.

It is not the business of a translator to attempt to outdo all others in singing the praises of his raw material. This is a dangerous process and may well lead, as it led Mr.