

**GOD'S  
SMILE, PP. 1-183**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649594719

God's Smile, pp. 1-183 by Julius Magnussen & Daniel Kilham Dodge

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JULIUS MAGNUSSEN & DANIEL KILHAM DODGE**

**GOD'S  
SMILE, PP. 1-183**



## GOD'S SMILE

# GOD'S SMILE

BY JULIUS MAGNUSSEN

TRANSLATED BY DANIEL KILHAM DODGE



D. APPLETON AND COMPANY  
NEW YORK : LONDON : MCMXX

Phil 7069.20.240

✓

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

THE STATE OF

NEW YORK

JUL 23, 1922

0

COPYRIGHT, 1920, BY  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## INTRODUCTION

Before I begin the account of some very remarkable personal experiences it is necessary for me to introduce myself to my readers, for I cannot assume that everybody knows who I am. This is all the more necessary because I believe that, in addition to my old readers, this book will gain for me some readers who have not before heard of, or know only superficially, this dramatist, who appears to be a favorite with the frequenters of the Royal Theater.

I am, as has already been stated, a dramatist and until a few years ago I was also a bold and somewhat feared journalist on the radical press. My name is pretty well known in my own country, but beyond its borders I have only scattered admirers. The plays of my youth, however, have wandered far afield in German and Dutch speaking countries. I believe that they are about to penetrate America, but of this I have no certain information.

After a silence of five years I now seize my



## INTRODUCTION

pen and publish a book that will be a surprise to my friends and to the public, who have heard that I had written a new play. This was true, but unforeseen circumstances induced me to interrupt the work when it was almost completed, and this book deals with these circumstances. I had planned to have my comedy performed this season and I was in the midst of arduous efforts to complete it, when something happened that completely altered my plans and that will alter my whole life.

Those who are acquainted with the author of these pages will consider it superfluous for me to explain that I may regard the giving up of my dramatic composition as an event. But to those who do not know me it must be told why it is an event for me and for a small circle in Copenhagen in the season of 1919-1920.

I may venture to claim without self-praise, to which, by the way, I am not at all averse, that hitherto I have been highly successful in my career as a dramatist, remarkably successful, indeed. The Danish National Theater has presented many of my plays and from my earliest youth success has accompanied me. I can therefore assume that when I was ap-

## INTRODUCTION

proaching a new première at the Royal Theater it was with the absolute certainty that such an event would be anticipated with suspense in the circle to which I belong. My vanity was tickled in the highest degree to realize that people anticipated with great curiosity, devices with which the popular young dramatist intended to entertain the public. I knew that the curiosity and suspense would be all the greater because since 1915 I had not produced a new play or written anything of interest. But, on the other hand, I had written nothing that could disappoint my friends.

After a long period of lassitude I had my work prepared and had reached the last stage.

I give this detailed description, not at all in order to please myself by telling about the author whom I so highly prize, but in order to explain that I had reached a critical point in my career. My youth had glided away with uninterrupted success. I was thirty-seven years old. I felt that when I now appeared before the public I must show myself as a maturer man. After long and energetic efforts I had gone far enough to realize that there were possibilities of recovering the place I had occupied as a young man, a place which

## INTRODUCTION

I had forsaken, not because I had been thrust aside by other and better writers, but which I had left because of illness and many other circumstances which had robbed me of my courage and the will to work.

But in November, 1919, I could discern the goal and I was again filled with eagerness to appear before the public and to show that I was the same as I was before, only better, older and more mature.

This is the truth about myself, which I must write in order that you may understand that I had reached a very important and decisive point in my life. With a glad heart and trembling mind I felt that I was my old self again, that my characters lived and their speeches buzzed about their ears. And then I threw aside the whole play and lost all interest in it.

You must acknowledge that those must have been important circumstances that could induce a writer in my position to give up his whole enterprise and lay aside a piece of work that signified for him a new epoch in his life. My friends will be all the more amazed at these words, for they know that this work is my one real interest and that the only thing