

**MARY  
MAGDALENE; A  
PLAY IN THREE ACTS**

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Mary Magdalene; a play in three acts by Maurice Maeterlinck

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# MARY MAGDALENE

A PLAY IN THREE ACTS

BY

MAURICE MAETERLINCK

TRANSLATED BY

ALEXANDER TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS

FIFTH EDITION

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## AUTHOR'S NOTE

I have borrowed from Mr. Paul Heyse's drama, *Maria von Magdala*, the idea of two situations in my play, namely, at the end of the first act, the intervention of Christ, who stops the crowd raging against Mary Magdalene with these words, spoken behind the scenes: "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone;" and, in the third, the dilemma in which the great sinner finds herself, of saving or destroying the Son of God, according as she consents or refuses to give herself to a Roman.

Before setting to work, I asked the venerable German poet, whom I hold in the highest esteem, for his permission to develop those two situations, which, so to



## Author's Note

speak, were merely sketched in his play, with its incomparably richer plot than mine; and I offered to recognize his rights in whatever manner he thought proper. My respectful request was answered with a refusal, none too courteous, I regret to say, and almost threatening.

From that moment, I was bound to consider that the words from the Gospel, quoted above, are common property; and that the dilemma of which I speak is one of those which occur pretty frequently in dramatic literature. It seemed to me the more lawful to make use of it inasmuch as I had happened to imagine it in the fourth act of *Joyzelle*, in the same year in which *Maria von Magdala* was published and before I was able to become acquainted with that play.

I will add that, excepting the principle of these two situations, in all that concerns

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the subject of the play, the conduct of the action, the persons, the characters, the evolution and the atmosphere, our two works have absolutely nothing in common: not a phrase, not a cue of the one will be found in the other.

Having said this, I am happy to express to the aged master my gratitude for an intellectual benefit which is none the less great for being involuntary.

MAURICE MAETERLINCK.

## CHARACTERS

LUCIUS VERUS, a military tribune

ANNCEUS SILANUS

APPIUS

CÆLIUS

LAZARUS

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHÆA

NICODEMUS

BARTIMÆUS

SLAVES, BLIND MEN, CRIPPLES, SICK  
MEN, VAGRANTS, MEN CURED BY  
MIRACLES, ETC.

MARY MAGDALENE

MARTHA

MARY CLEOPHAS

MARY SALOME

OTHER SAINTS, BEGGAR-WOMEN, HAR-  
LOTS, ETC.

*The first and second acts take place at  
Bethany; the third at Jerusalem.*