

**THE FLORENTINES:
A PLAY**

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The Florentines: A Play by Maurice V. Samuels

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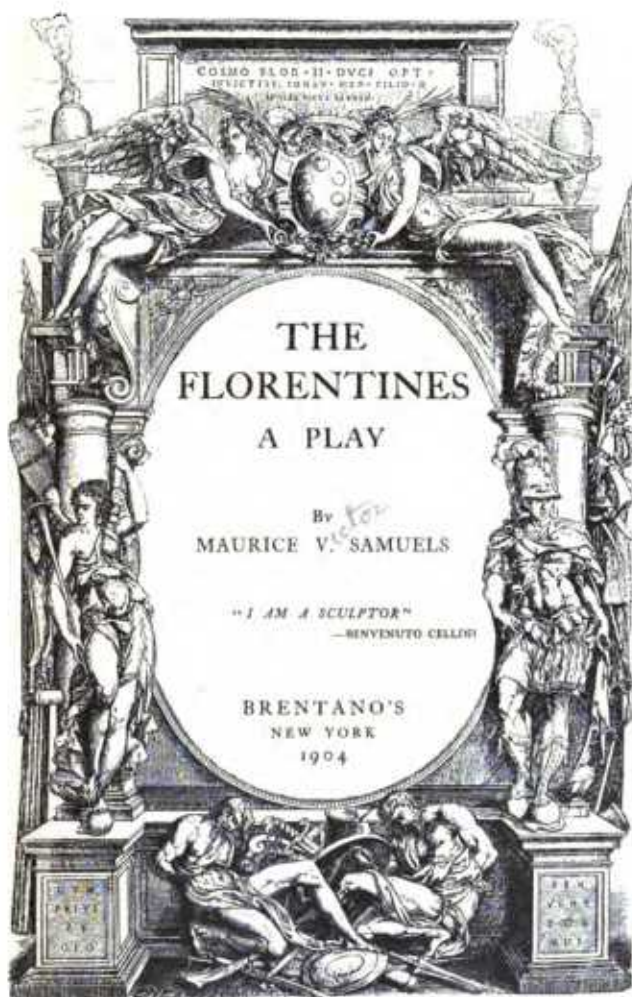
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MAURICE V. SAMUELS

**THE FLORENTINES:
A PLAY**



COSMO FLORENTINVS OPTVS
INVENTVS TORNABVS MVS FLORENTINVS

THE
FLORENTINES
A PLAY

By
MAURICE V. SAMUELS

“I AM A SCULPTOR”
—BENVENUTO CELLINI

BRENTANO'S
NEW YORK
1904

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TO MY PARENTS



IN those dark periods of self-distrust,
When Inspiration, sleeping, seems away,
And Night refuses promise of the Day,
If then we toll, 'tis only that we must,
And not because we know that All is just,
Or that the struggling Self is more than clay,
Ill-fitted and faint-hearted for the fray
Which offers, tho' we conquer, but Life's crust.
What then recalls the courage that we miss?
What holds our Faith alive and gives us power
To trample thicket and to wing abyss?
'Tis that eternal, never wasting dower:
The trust of those who love us. It is this
That turns our empty time to fruitful hour.

October 3, 1904

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CHARACTERS

BENVENUTO CELLINI	<i>At Forty-five</i>
COSIMO DE' MEDICI	<i>Duke of Florence</i>
MARSILIO GIOTTO	<i>Cellini's Apprentice</i>
BACCIO BANDINELLO	<i>A Rival of Cellini</i>
ALFONSO DA TROTTI	<i>A Gentleman of Florence</i>
PIER FRANCESCO RICCIO	<i>Major Domo to the Duke</i>
GIOVAN BATTISTA	} . . . <i>Artists, friends of Cellini</i>
JACOPO PONTORMO	
LELIO TORELLO	
VITTORIO	<i>Bargello of Florence</i>
THE DUCHESS OF FLORENCE	<i>Wife of Cosimo De' Medici</i>
LADY LEONORA RUCELLAI	<i>Her Friend and Cosimo's Ward</i>
FEDERIGA	<i>Cellini's Model A Soldier</i>

Time of Play, 1545

Place: FLORENCE

1940

1941

1942

1943

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

SCENE I.—*Dining-hall in the house of PONTORMO, the painter. (Afternoon.)*

SCENE II.—*Garden of Palace of DUKE COSIMO. (Evening of the same day.)*

ACT II

SCENE I.—*Workshop and Studio of CELLINI. (A few days later.)*

SCENE II.—*A Room in the Palace. (Ten minutes afterward.)*

ACT III

Another Room in the Palace. (Five weeks have elapsed.)