

**THE DEUCE IS IN  
HIM: A FARCE IN  
TWO ACTS**

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The deuce is in him: a farce in two acts by George Colman

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**GEORGE COLMAN**

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THE DEUCE IS IN HIM

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# THE DEUCE IS IN HIM

A FARCE IN TWO ACTS

BY

GEORGE COLMAN

THE ELDER

ADAPTED BY

W. GRAHAM ROBERTSON

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## INTRODUCTION

WHILE preparing their version of David Garrick's *Miss in her Teens*, which has already been published in this series, the Chiddingfold Players almost necessarily became aware of their author's friend and contemporary dramatist, George Colman. He, like Garrick, was manager of a theatre—first of Covent Garden, and then of the Haymarket—and had an intimate working knowledge of the stage. His most famous play, *The Clandestine Marriage*, which still holds the boards, was written in collaboration with the great David.

In addition to his more important plays, Colman wrote many little after pieces—brief sketches to raise the spirits of an audience after an evening of blank-verse tragedy. Several of these, too short for our modern requirements, contain excellent dramatic ideas well worthy of expansion, and *The Deuce is in Him* shows a good instance of these promising but undeveloped plots.

The original play ends with the discovery by the ladies of Colonel Tamper's unusual scheme for testing the affections of his lady-love, but it is very unlikely that two lively and high-spirited young women like Emily and Bell would have forgiven the masquerading Colonel without trying to "get some of their own back." The adapter has therefore shamelessly invented their counter-plot, the development of which also brings Mademoiselle de Florival's romance to a more dramatic conclusion.

He apologizes to all intelligent and right-minded readers.

W. G. R.

## CHARACTERS

in order of their appearance, with the cast of the first performance of this version by THE CHIDDINGFOLD PLAYERS, October 30, 1929.

EMILY . . . . .	Nancy Francis.
MADMOISELLE DE FLORIVAL . . . . .	Elsie Milton.
BELL . . . . .	Freda Joyce.
CHARLES . . . . .	Leslie Plumley.
MAJOR BELFORD . . . . .	Donald Covey.
COLONEL TAMPER . . . . .	Powis Conway-Jones.
DR. PRATTLE . . . . .	Walter Ranson.

SCENE.—A room in Emily's house.

*The Deuce is in Him* was first acted at Drury Lane Theatre on Friday, November 4, 1763, and first published, in octavo, in the same year.

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# THE DEUCE IS IN HIM

## ACT I

*(A room in Emily's house. Emily and Mademoiselle de Florival are seated together on a sofa. Mademoiselle de Florival wears a long black cloak and a cocked hat.)*

*Emily.* Dear madam, be assured that I will do everything in my power to serve you ; my brother knew that he might command my service.

*Florival (sobbing).* You cannot wonder, madam, that I should be extremely shocked at the necessity of presenting myself before you in—in——

*Emily.* Yes—in——?

*(Mademoiselle de Florival opens her cloak. She is dressed in an officer's uniform—red coat and white breeches.)*

*Emily.* Pray, madam, be comforted. There is something in your manner which assures me that every action of your life carries its apology along with it. And let me assure *you*—they are extremely well cut, and suit you to a nicety.