

**KATE; A COMEDY
IN FOUR ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649381791

Kate; a comedy in four acts by Bronson Howard

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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BRONSON HOWARD

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IN FOUR ACTS**

KATE

A COMEDY IN FOUR ACTS

BY

BRONSON HOWARD



KING HENRY . . . THANK LOVE FOR MY
BLINDNESS. . . SHALL KATE BE MY WIFE?
—HENRY V, v. 2



NEW YORK AND LONDON
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS

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NOTE

EXCEPTING the word "Act," which seems as clear and as familiar as any other word that could be used for the purpose, all the technicalities of the stage are utterly ignored in this comedy as here printed; and even the names of the speakers are not constantly repeated as heretofore thought necessary in all dramatic publications. Their continual and useless repetition, wearying to the eye and a bar to the natural movement of thought, is no more necessary to the reader of a play than to the reader of the occasional dialogues in a novel. So far as the mere form of the play is concerned the author wishes if possible to carry the imagination directly to scenes of real life and not to the stage. To ask a man sitting in a library first to imagine himself in a theatre, then to imagine himself somewhere else, is to obscure if not destroy the true dramatic effect of what he reads. We make every

NOTE

possible effort to conceal stage technicalities from the spectator in a theatre, and the speakers are not labelled. We know these things only at rehearsal and in the "prompt book"; why should they be forced on one who is reading a play instead of seeing it performed?

ACT FIRST
WHEN MARRIAGE IS A FARCE

ACT SECOND
LOVE AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS

ACT THIRD
STRONGER THAN LAW OR RITE

ACT FOURTH
WHICH WOULD BE A WIFE?

CHARACTERS

KATE HARDENBECK. BIANCA DUNN.
THE HON. DOROTHEA CATHERST.

THE REV. LORD JOHN VERNOR.
ARCHIBALD PENGUE, EARL CATHERST.
THE REV. EDWARD LYELL.

ERASTUS G. HARDENBECK.
FRANKLIN TENBROECK.
THE DUKE OF MAINWARTON.
SCOTCHBURN ANCOTT.
CAPT. LORD FEOLLIET PENGUE.
DE PEYSTER WOLFE.

LADY ST. JOHN-GLYN.
THE DUCHESS OF MAINWARTON.

PEELER DIMPS. MRS. JANE DUNN.
NESBITT. WATTMAN. BAILEY.
REGINALD. HERBERT.