

**MARY
STUART; A PLAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649362844

Mary Stuart; A Play by John Drinkwater

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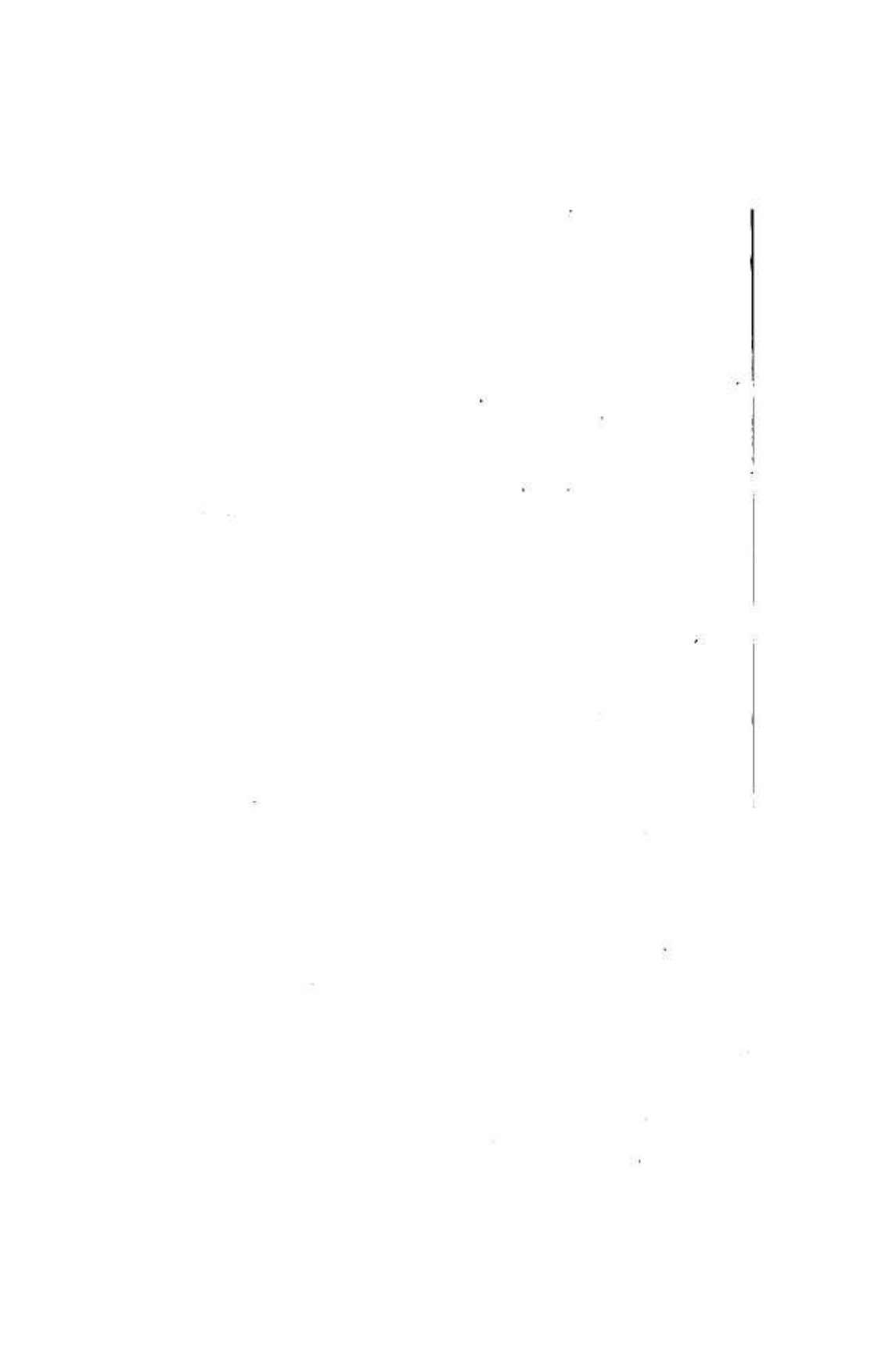
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JOHN DRINKWATER

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A Play

By
JOHN DRINKWATER



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
1921

This One



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NORA AND ST. JOHN ERVINE

THE CHARACTERS ARE

ANDREW BOYD

JOHN HUNTER

MARY STUART

MARY BEATON

DAVID RICCIO

DARNLEY

THOMAS RANDOLPH

BOTHWELL

MARY STUART

A small library in ANDREW BOYD'S house in Edinburgh. In the far wall is a fireplace, and to the right of it a high folding window. Above the fireplace is a large oil portrait of MARY STUART.

It is late on a summer evening, and the window is open, giving on to a garden terrace, under which the town lies in the moonlight.

ANDREW BOYD, who is seventy years old, sits at a small table with a young man, JOHN HUNTER. BOYD, wearing a black velvet coat and skull-cap, looks as Charles the First might have done had he achieved a fuller age. HUNTER is in evening clothes. The date is 1900 or later.

Hunter: That's all. It's terrible.

Boyd: What do you propose to do?

Hunter: I don't know. What can I do?

Boyd: Did you merely want to tell me — or do you want my advice?

Hunter: Andrew, the few grains of wisdom I have I've picked up from you. At least, I think so. Help me — if there is any help.

Boyd: I don't know that I can guide your moods. That's difficult always between men. I can only try to tell you what I think. Is it worth while?

Hunter: Well?

Boyd: You and Margaret have been married five years, is n't it? It's not long, but it's a good deal in young lives.

Hunter: Five years — yes.

Boyd: They have been happy years, have n't they?

Hunter: Perfectly, until this.

Boyd: And now — by the way, have you ever cared for any other woman?

Hunter: No.

Boyd: No. And now there's Finlay. I've always liked Finlay. And his book on our Queen is the wisest word about her that I know.

Hunter: My God! It's funny, is n't it? Finlay on harlotry. I beg your pardon, Andrew.

Boyd: That's just it, my boy. Harlotry. The word buzzes in your brain, does n't it? I wonder. Do you want to understand at all — or do you just mean to be angry?

Hunter: It's easy enough to understand.