

**MORE SHORT  
PLAYS FOR  
AMATEURS**

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More Short Plays for Amateurs by Mrs. Barry Pain

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**MRS. BARRY PAIN**

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SHORT PLAYS

FOR AMATEURS

BY

Mrs. BARRY PAIN

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THE REASON WHY



*DRAMATIS PERSONÆ*

HE. | SHE.

SCENE: MRS. GRAFTON'S *drawing-room*.

TIME: 5.30 P.M.

This play can be acted without a curtain.

## THE REASON WHY

### A DIALOGUE

*Discovered: MR. and MRS. HARRY GRAFTON. He is in frock-coat. She is in smart afternoon reception-gown. He is sitting in an armchair, holding a magazine and large paper-knife. She is pacing the room, but pausing continually to look out of the window.*

DOES R. AND L.

SHE.

It's the most extraordinary thing that has ever happened. *Don't* sit there like a piece of meat, brandishing that knife as if you were going to carve yourself.

HE.

Do you wish me to stand up and dance a hornpipe, or what? Perhaps you would like me to take a pantechnicion and go and fetch the people?

SHE.

Don't talk nonsense. Half-past five, and not one

solitary cat. It's becoming positively farcical. What does it mean?

HE.

I've told you about twenty times what I think it means. You've made some tom-fool blunder in the invitations.

SHE.

And haven't I shown you the sample card about forty times? What can be plainer? "Mrs. Harry Grafton at Home, Thursday, December 17th, 4 to 6." Oh, if only I had put R.S.V.P. ! Never again will I give a party in a poke, so to speak. Of course if I hadn't been away just this fortnight I should have seen people, and found out pretty well who was coming and who wasn't. But that not one single soul should turn up!

HE.

[*Nodding towards open door left.*] And that you should have prepared for the British Army!

SHE.

[*Looking through the same door.*] What nonsense! It doesn't look at all too much. Usual things; nothing more. I had to prepare for all *in case* they all came. Sometimes they even bring horrible aunts