

**THE WAY WOMEN  
LOVE. A NOVEL**

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The Way Women Love. A Novel by E. Owens Blackburne

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**E. OWENS BLACKBURNE**

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# THE WAY WOMEN LOVE.

A Novel.

BY

E. OWENS BLACKBURNE,

AUTHOR OF "A WOMAN SCORPED," ETC.

"COMMON AS LIGHT IS LOVE."

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

LONDON:

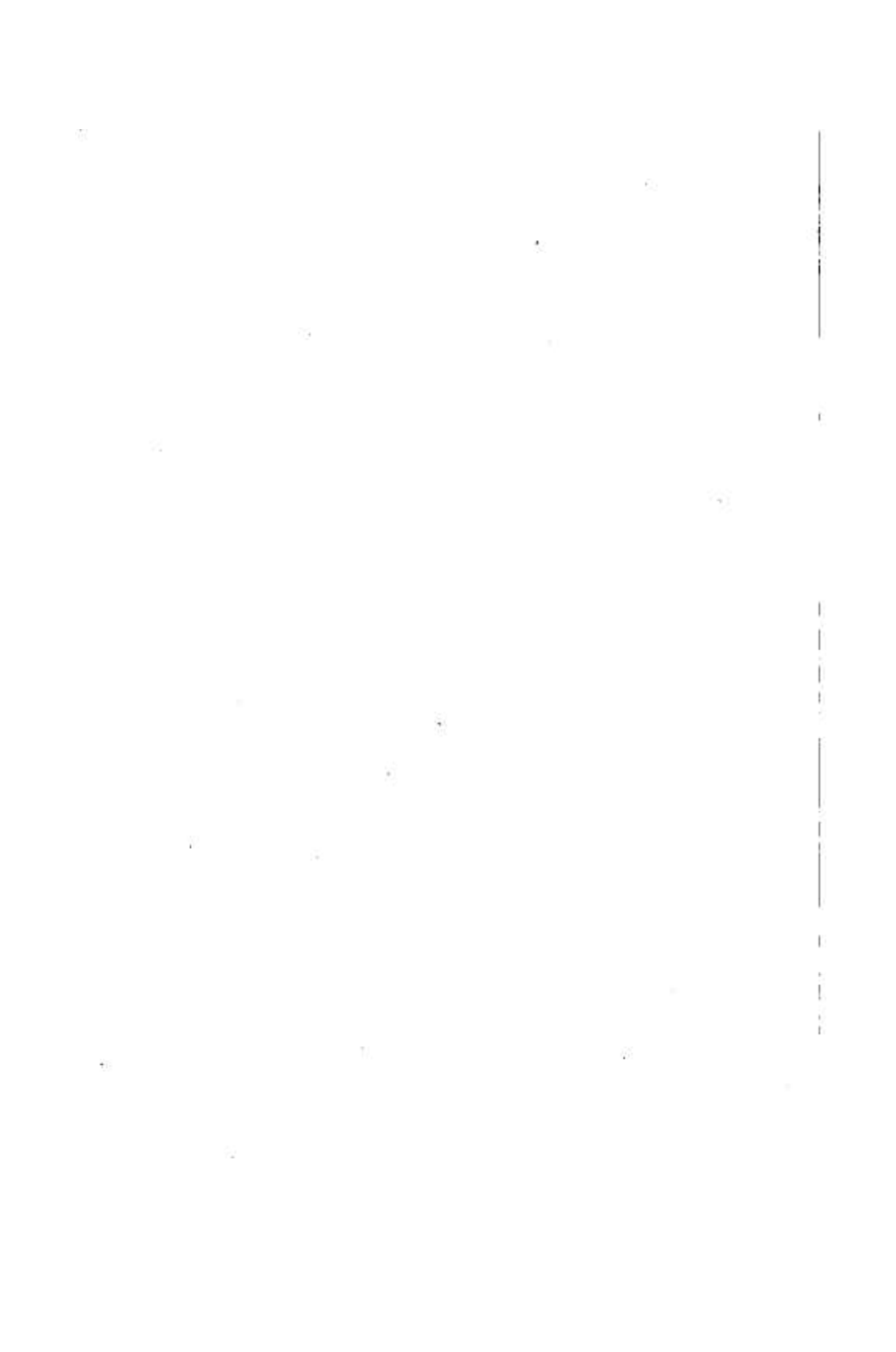
TINSLEY BROTHERS, 8, CATHERINE ST., STRAND.

1877.

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## CONTENTS.

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CHAPTER	PAGE
I. MISS KATHERINE BUTLER ... ..	1
II. "SWEET LOVE!" ... ..	17
III. MYRA NELIGAN ... ..	28
IV. "I HAVE NO OBJECTION" ... ..	48
V. THE SCENE IS SAVED ... ..	53
VI. "EXACTLY A YEAR YESTERDAY" ... ..	66
VII. "I WANT YOU TO REVOKE THAT OPINION" ... ..	80
VIII. "MR. BLACKBALL WANTS YOU" ... ..	92
IX. "KEEP YOUR OWN COUNSEL" ... ..	107
X. MRS. BLAND'S ENGAGEMENT ... ..	119
XI. A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS ... ..	133
XII. HER WEDDING-RING ... ..	146
XIII. A CRY FOR THE AUTHOR ... ..	160
XIV. "FIRE! FIRE!" ... ..	171
XV. "GO!" ... ..	183
XVI. THE WAY WOMEN LOVE ... ..	194





# THE WAY WOMEN LOVE.

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## CHAPTER I.

MISS KATHERINE BUTLER.

THE new comer holds the door open, and Moira enters the little dingy office. Behind a small counter a shabby-looking man is seated. He does not take any notice of Moira, but, standing up, and deferentially bowing to the elder gentleman, he says—

“Good morning, Mr. Mathieson—five ladies upstairs, sir.”

“All right, Joe,” responds the other—adding, as he turns and looks critically

at Moira, "Looking for an engagement, miss?"

"I have called in answer to this advertisement," she replies, reddening furiously as she produces the theatrical newspaper from her pocket.

"Um, um!" He still gazes at her as though she were a lay figure. "It was I put in that advertisement."

Moira bows. She is not quite sure what to say. Her ideal of a theatrical manager is very different from the reality. Mr. Mathieson is short and stout, and middle-aged, with a cleanly shaven face of one uniform pinky hue, scanty grey hair, and a pair of humorous little grey eyes.

"Joe," he says, addressing the shabby man behind the counter, "how many did you say were upstairs?"

"Five, Mr. Mathieson."

“ Any of the old lot ? ”

“ Yes, Mr. Mathieson, all the old lot, except one lady.”

“ Who is she ? ”

“ She puts down her name as Miss Alexandra de Montespan; ” and Joe refers to a book on the counter before him.

“ Holy Hamlet ! ” ejaculates Mr. Mathieson ; “ such a name is enough even to take away a manager’s breath. Why didn’t she put down Victoria Guelph when she went about it ? Real name I dare say is Muggins. I’ll go up and look at them.”

“ Is this lady to go up too, sir ? ” inquires Joe, indicating Moira with a nod towards her.

“ Um, um ! ” Mr. Mathieson again looks at Moira. “ Just sit down there, miss, and I’ll see you in a few minutes ; ” and, pointing to a chair with his stick, the