

A QUEEN OF HEARTS

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A queen of hearts by Elizabeth Phipps Train

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ELIZABETH PHIPPS TRAIN

**A QUEEN
OF HEARTS**

A QUEEN OF HEARTS

BY ELIZABETH PHIPPS TRAIN

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PROFESSIONAL
BEAUTY

A MARITAL LIABILITY

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QUEEN OF HEARTS
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

(SOME months ago a gentleman chanced to discover a quantity of loose manuscript in a secret drawer of a desk which he had bought at auction. This, out of mere idle curiosity, he sorted and arranged, becoming so interested in its perusal while placing it in order that he concluded to edit it for publication.

It was claimed by the auctioneer who sold it that the desk had been the property of a celebrated actress, but he was unable to furnish the lady's name; nor was it possible for the purchaser to identify her by means of her manuscript, as throughout her history she had made use of initials only in referring both to persons and places.

Himself a man of wide acquaintance with the stage as well as the social world, Mr. J. considered that where he was baffled in an attempt at identification others were not likely to be more successful. Therefore, having taken the additional precaution to change the initials of the names—which he filled in, according to his fancy—as they occurred in the manuscript, he has thought it no harm to offer these memoirs to the public.)

A QUEEN OF HEARTS

CHAPTER I.

TO-DAY Lisa was married. A simple sentence that, and how easily written! My pen slipped as smoothly over the paper as if I were writing "How do you do? It is a pleasant day——" My God, my God! how have I been crucified this day! How great agony can a woman's heart endure and not break!

Yet I bore it well, even to kissing my girl's husband, and bidding him love and cherish her. Ah, my training stood me in good stead. I smiled, I chattered, I played my part: how, did they say? "Like a gracious sovereign bestowing the hand of a princess royal upon a noble suitor." Play-actress! cheat! impostor! Was it so—was it so I felt? No; no. Like a woman, rather; a miserable, hapless, hopeless woman, who had no choice left her but to rend her soul with her own fingers; to tear, with determined, deliberate hands, her heart from her breast and, ruthlessly, in the very face and eyes of the public, trample it beneath her own feet; to ache, and suffer, and sob