

**THE LOVE MATCH:  
A PLAY IN FIVE  
SCENES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649476954

The Love Match: A Play in Five Scenes by Arnold Bennett

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Cover @ 2017

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## By ARNOLD BENNETT

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### NOVELS

MR. PROHACK	THE MATADOR OF THE FIVE TOWNS
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THE PRETTY LADY	BURIED ALIVE
THE LION'S SHARE	A GREAT MAN
THESE TWAIN	LEONORA
CLAYHANGER	WHOM GOD HATH JOINED
HILDA LESSWAYS	A MAN FROM THE NORTH
THE OLD WIVES' TALE	ANNA OF THE FIVE TOWNS
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BOOKS AND PERSONS	LIBERTY!
PARIS NIGHTS	OVER THERE: WAR SCENES

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NEW YORK: GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

# THE LOVE MATCH

*A PLAY IN FIVE SCENES*

BY

ARNOLD BENNETT

Author of "Clayhanger," "Body and Soul," "Sacred  
and Profane Love," "Judith," "The Old  
Wives' Tale," etc.



NEW YORK

GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

TO MR. J. B. PINKER & SON  
ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.  
46  
2471  
Ls

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*The terms for performing this play may be obtained  
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9 Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.*

THE LOVE MATCH. II  
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## CHARACTERS AND SCENES

### *Characters*

HUGH RUSS  
ADRIAN DIBBLE  
STRAKER  
NINA  
ANNE  
ST. PANCRAS

### *Scenes*

SCENE I  
RUSS'S STUDY  
SCENE II  
THE SAME  
SCENE III  
THE SAME  
SCENE IV  
ROOM IN CHOLMONDELEY COURT MANSIONS  
SCENE V  
RUSS'S STUDY





## THE LOVE MATCH

### SCENE I

*Russ's study. Doors back [leading to the entrance hall], L. [up-stage, leading to the servants' quarters], L<sup>2</sup> [leading to drawing-room], R. [leading to bedroom].*

*A luxurious room. Among the furniture are a desk [with telephone, and a handsome bouquet of flowers wrapped in tissue-paper, on it] and a couch.*

*TIME: After dinner.*

*Nina is sitting alone. Enter Russ.*

*Russ [seeing Nina, with somewhat forced geniality and good humour]. Ah! So you are ornamenting my study.*

*Nina. You're late.*

*Russ. It's the first I've heard of it.*

*Nina. Look at your watch.*

*Russ [looking]. Well? Not a bad-looking watch.*

*Nina. You said you'd be back at nine.*

## THE LOVE MATCH

*Russ.* Ah! Who did I say that to?

*Nina.* Straker. He's just told me.

*Russ.* I did tell Straker nine o'clock, but only to give him something to think about. I don't make appointments with servants. Their destiny in life is to wait. I fulfil their destiny. [*Opens a newspaper packet, glances at the newspaper, and drops it on the floor.*] I came across your bright sister at the restaurant.

*Nina.* Oh! Anne. Who was *she* with?

*Russ.* I don't know. Some fellow.

*Nina.* I suppose she was full of horse-sense, as usual.

*Russ.* She was. She kept me. We kept each other. It seems she's going to America to sell women's raiment for Sylvia, Limited.

*Nina.* America! I wonder what she'll do next, the little adventuress!

*Russ* [*calling out loudly*]. Straker! [*Straker enters at the same moment, L.*] Oh! There you are!

*Straker* [*impassively*]. Sorry I didn't hear you come in, sir. [*He takes Russ's hat, overcoat, stick, and gloves.*]

*Russ.* Any messages?

*Straker.* Miss Burton says she has finished copying the draft report of Heavy Oils Limited, sir, and is she to wait?

*Russ.* That's not a message. [*Straker with his disengaged hand picks up the newspaper and*