

**THE PRETTIEST  
WOMAN IN WARSAW:  
A NOVEL, VOL. I**

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The Prettiest Woman in Warsaw: A Novel, Vol. I by Mabel Collins

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**MABEL COLLINS**

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IN WARSAW.

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THE PRETTIEST WOMAN  
IN WARSAW.

A *Novel*.

BY

MABEL COLLINS,

*Author of "An Innocent Sinner," "In the Flower of her Youth," &c.*

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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## P R E F A C E.

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*"People will fit caps! The author of THE PRETTIEST WOMAN IN WARSAW is desirous of having it known that there is no truth in the published statement that Madame Modjeska is the heroine of the book. The story is that of a crime which was committed in a Roumanian chateau: two sisters, Polish actresses, are concerned in it."—From "The World," Dec. 31, 1884.*

I place here the above cutting by way of preface, in order to disarm such readers and reviewers as delight in the amusement of fitting caps. The American Press confidently made the assertion contradicted in that paragraph before "The Prettiest Woman in Warsaw" had left the printer's hands. Remembering how, in some recent cases, the Press and public have persisted in similar identification, spite of the author's denial, I think it well to state clearly once more that the incidents of this story are not drawn from the career of any celebrity whatever, and that the characters are not portraits of any persons known to the public. I fondly hope the reader will glance at this preface before beginning the story, and will therefore take it on such merits as it may have, and not regard it, as seems to be the growing habit in respect to novels, as the work of an "interviewer."

THE AUTHOR.