

# **THE STATEMENT OF STELLA MABERLY**

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The statement of Stella Maberly by F. Anstey

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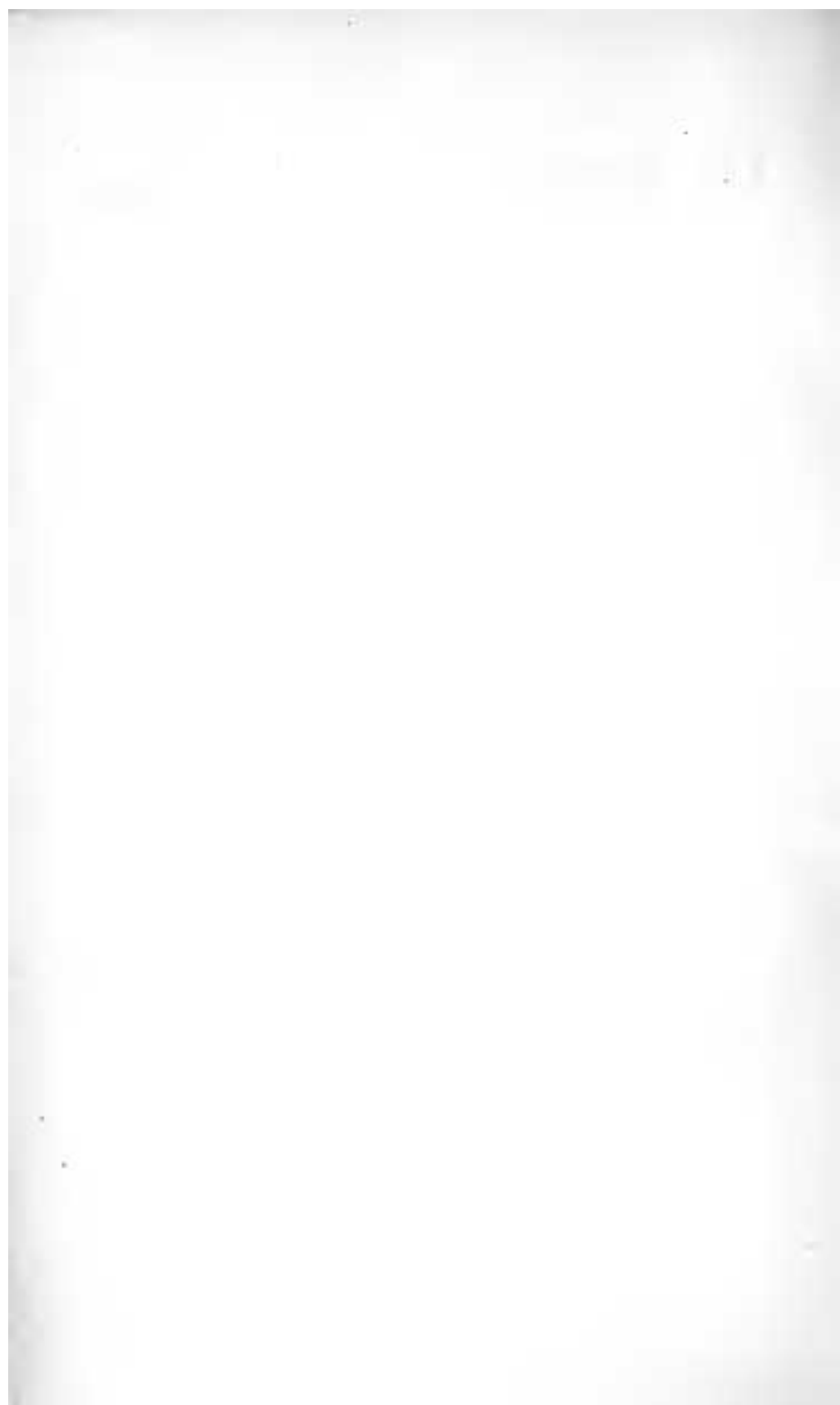
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**F. ANSTEY**

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# The Statement of Stella Maberly



GLORIA F.

By

**F. Hnstey**

Author of *Uice Versa*, *The Giant's Robe*, *The Black Poodle*,  
*Tourmalin's Time Cheques*, Etc.



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## INTRODUCTION.

I, STELLA MABERLY, have determined to make a full statement of all the circumstances in my life which led me to commit an act that, in itself, would seem a crime deserving of nothing but condemnation.

I shall write it rather for my own satisfaction than that of others, for there may come a time when, as has been the case before, my memory grows confused and I begin to wonder whether, after all, I may not have been mistaken, and, what is more dreadful still, to doubt whether I am not actually as guilty as I have been made to appear.

So, while my recollection is still vivid and clear, I am going to put everything down on paper as accurately and impartially as I can, so that if, in the future, these horrible doubts should again assail me, I shall be able, simply

by reading this statement, to see exactly what I did and the reasons I had for doing it.

After I am gone I should like others to read it too. Probably very few will believe that what I am writing is the truth ; but that will not matter to me then, and even already I have ceased to care very much what the world outside may think.

Still, it pleases me to fancy that, perhaps here and there, someone who knew me once will read this and believe that it is just possible that poor Stella Maberly was more to be pitied than blamed.

I shall begin my statement with some account of my childhood, not because it was eventful or interesting, but because, without it, much that followed would seem less intelligible and excusable.

THE STATEMENT  
OF STELLA MABERLY.

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I.

I HAVE no recollection of my mother, although she did not die until I was nearly four years old. She and my father separated shortly after I was born, and remained apart till her death. She was extremely beautiful, as I know from a portrait that exists of her, but cursed, I believe, with so violent a temper that it soon became impossible to live with her. When or how she died I don't know, for my father was always reserved on the subject, even when I was old enough to ask questions about her; but I can just remember the news coming that she was dead, and my nurse pulling down the nursery blinds and telling me I had lost my poor mamma and should have to wear black frocks.