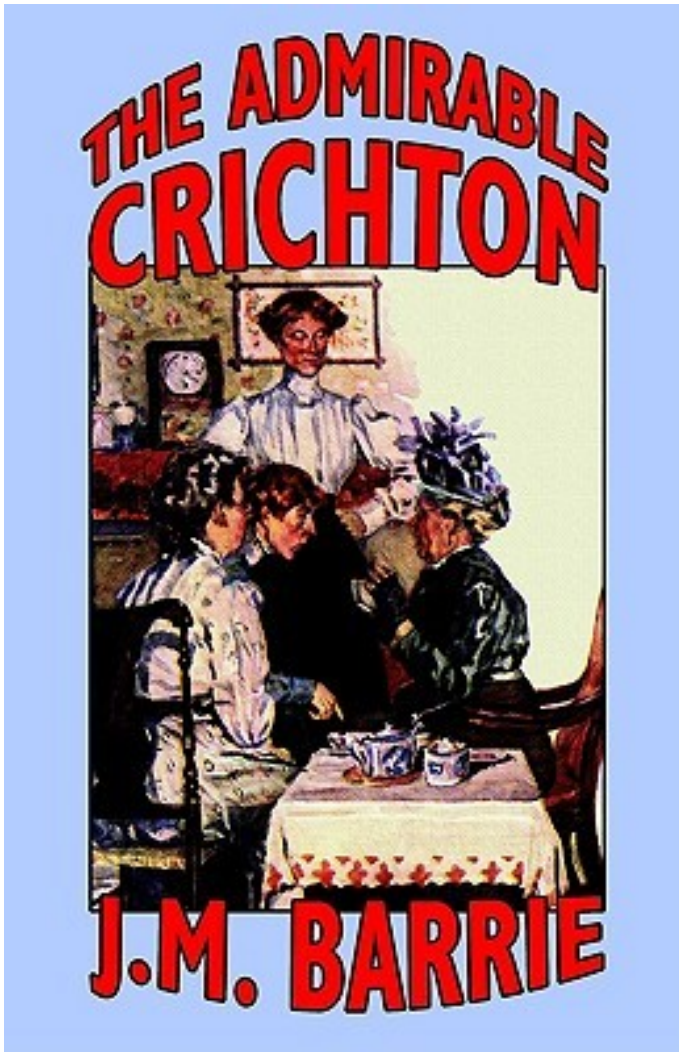

J.M. Barrie

The Admirable Crichton



Title: The Admirable Crichton

Author: J.M. Barrie

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Description

A comedy play. A moment before the curtain rises, the Hon. Ernest Woolley drives up to the door of Loam House in Mayfair. There is a happy smile on his pleasant, insignificant face, and this presumably means that he is thinking of himself. He is too busy over nothing, this man about town, to be always thinking of himself, but, on the other hand, he almost never thinks of any other person. Probably Ernest's great moment is when he wakes of a morning and realises that he really is Ernest, for we must all wish to be that which is our ideal. We can conceive him springing out of bed light-heartedly and waiting for his man to do the rest. He is dressed in excellent taste, with just the little bit more which shows that he is not without a sense of humour: the dandiacal are often saved by carrying a smile at the whole thing in their spats, let us say. Ernest left Cambridge the other day, a member of The Athenaeum (which he would be sorry to have you confound with a club in London of the same name). He is a bachelor, but not of arts, no mean epigrammatist (as you shall see), and a favourite of the ladies. He is almost a celebrity in restaurants, where he dines frequently, returning to sup; and during this last year he has probably paid as much in them for the privilege of handing his hat to an attendant as the rent of a working-man's flat. He complains brightly that he is hard up, and that if somebody or other at Westminster does not look out the country will go to the dogs. He is no fool. He has the shrewdness to float with the current because it is a labour-saving process, but he has sufficient pluck to fight, if fight he must (a brief contest, for he would soon be toppled over). He has alight nature, which would enable him to bob up cheerily in new conditions and return unaltered to the old ones.

Insightful reviews

Sarah: "Or Ever the Knightly Years..."

Or ever the knightly years were gone
With the old world to the grave,
I was the King of Babylon
And you were a Christian Slave.

I saw, I took, I cast you by,
I bent and broke your pride.
You loved me well, or I heard them lie,

But your longing was denied.
Surely I knew that by and by
You cursed your gods and died.

And a myriad suns have set and shone
Since then upon the grave
Decreed by the King of Babylon
To her that had been his Slave.

The pride I trampled is now my scathe,
For it tramples me again.
The old resentment lasts like death,
For you love, yet you refrain.
I break my heart on your hard unfaith,
And I break my heart in vain.

Yet not for hour do I wish undone
The deed beyond the grave,
When I was a King in Babylon
And you were a Virgin Slave.

by William Ernest Henley

Jason: Servant becomes master when a yacht crashes near a deserted island.
Not the radical piece about class I was hoping for, but still entertaining.

Larry Piper: Philip, the protagonist in *Of Human Bondage*, didn't have a lot of friends when he was young, so he spent a lot of his time reading. One of the things he read was *The Honorable Crichton*, which I discovered was by James M. Barrie, the guy who came up with Peter Pan. Then I discovered that *The Honorable Crichton* is actually a play. Well, I thought I'd not read a play since college, but realized that I was actually in a couple of plays, musicals actually, after I'd settled down and begun having children. So, I must have read those "plays". Whatever, I figured that one of these days, I should read a play or two, and now I have.

So this play is about an upper-class British family that has an oh-so proper butler, Crichton (sort of like Jeeves, I suppose). He knows his place, which is below the titled family members, and above the footmen and scullery maids. All works like clock work in the household. But then, they go off on a sailing trip and become stranded on a desert island. Once the party finds themselves in a state of nature, the natural order changes. And so forth. Basically it's a light comedy, and not at all bad. I spent a lot of time casting the play with the various regulars involved in my town's community theater. Unfortunately, the ideal actor for the role of Crichton died a year ago.

Steven: Admirable portrait of the injustices of the English category approach the place incompetent Lords have been served by means of useful butlers who did every little thing for them. while the Lords and women crash on a abandoned island, they're helpless at taking care of themselves and the servants take over. but if they're rescued, the 'natural order' resumes.

Mohab Hariry: even though it is a gentle tale it's nonetheless enjoyable and notable bringing you the fable while the king and the butler change roles apart from the direct tale a few side-thoughts are projected to the reader's brain similar to the potential of a person and the way his task cant outline who he's nevertheless we see the unusual philosophy of crichton in regards to the society and its layersi loved it .. it made me smile .. and during the entire acts crichton is actually admirable :)i wish to see it as a play

Jonathan: English play Not relatively an opinion.

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