

The Maid of Orleans

By Friedrich Schiller



The Maid of Orleans By Friedrich Schiller

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Ay, my good neighbors! we at least today Are Frenchmen still, free citizens and lords Of the old soil which our forefathers tilled. Who knows whom we tomorrow must obey? For England her triumphal banner waves From every wall: the blooming fields of France Are trampled down beneath her chargers' hoofs; Paris hath yielded to her conquering arms, And with the ancient crown of Dagobert Adorns the scion of a foreign race. Our king's descendant, disinherited, Must steal in secret through his own domain; While his first peer and nearest relative Contends against him in the hostile ranks; Ay, his unnatural mother leads them on. Around us towns and peaceful hamlets burn. Near and more near the devastating fire Rolls toward these vales, which yet repose in peace. Therefore, good neighbors, I have now resolved, While God still grants us safety, to provide For my three daughters; for 'midst war's alarms Women require protection, and true love Hath power to render lighter every load. [To the first Shepherd. Come, Etienne! You seek my Margot's hand. Fields lying side by side and loving hearts Promise a happy union! [To the second. Claude! You're silent, And my Louison looks upon the ground? How, shall I separate two loving hearts Because you have no wealth to offer me? Who now has wealth? Our barns and homes afford Spoil to the foe, and fuel to the fires. In times like these a husband's faithful breast Affords the only shelter from the storm.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Schiller, poet, critic, historian, and principle dramatist of German Classicism.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Serina Horne:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or read a book titled The Maid of Orleans? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Lisa Bates:

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Scott Hicks:

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