

THE BOOK

A Drama in One Act

by
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CHARACTERS:

JULIE: A pretty, young girl about 20.

MISS MOON: A competent nurse.

AUNT LAURA: A proud, middle-aged spinster.

SETTING: The scene is Aunt Laura's small, private sitting room adjoining her bedroom on the second floor. There is only one entrance, a door up right that opens into the bedroom. A fireplace is left center, small bookcase up left. A couch, with pillows, is down left center in front of the fireplace, a floor lamp on the left of it near the head. A small table laden with magazines is on the right center of couch. A fireplace bench is placed on an angle up left by the fireplace. A fire burns in the grate and two candles are lighted on the mantle. The floor lamp is lighted.

TIME: Around eight o'clock, a winter's evening.

PROPERTIES: Old fashioned candle snuffer--on mantle.

Afghan or shawl--on foot of couch.

Small tray with bottle of medicine, spoon, glass of water and a small box of pills--for nurse--carried in.

Smelling salts--for nurse--in pocket.

AT RISE: Julie, a pretty, young girl, is discovered standing in front of the fireplace leaning on the mantle, her head down, gazing into the fire. She taps one foot idly, appears restless and unhappy. This is sustained for the count of five, then Miss Moon enters the partly open door up right. She wears the uniform of a trained nurse and her manner as she enters is the quiet, cautious manner of a nurse leaving a sick patient who has just gone to sleep. She hesitates at the door a second listening, then satisfied that her patient is all right, she turns, leaving the door wide open. She looks at her wrist watch, and then walks briskly down left to Julie, giving the girl a look of understanding and sympathy as she crosses. Julie turns slowly and faces her with an unhappy, troubled look.

JULIE: (Almost sullenly) Is she asleep?

MISS MOON: (Pleasantly smiling) Yes, she's asleep. Don't worry so, Julie. (Pats girl kindly on shoulder) She's getting along very well for one in her condition.

JULIE: I know she is. I'm not worrying about Aunt Laura. (She crosses right, and sits on the couch wearily. Miss Moon watches her wisely.)

MISS M: (Gently) It's Dan, isn't it?

JULIE: (Petulantly) Yes, Miss Moon, it's Dan. I'm so miserable! And it's so unnecessary!

MISS M.: I know it must seem that way to you, Julie.

JULIE: (Irritably) Seem? There's no seem about it! It is unnecessary and it's cruel too! Sometimes I think I'll just run away and marry Dan in spite of what Aunt Laura thinks!

MISS M.: (Urgently) No. You mustn't do that, Julie. Not now.

JULIE: Not now?

MISS M.: No, you must wait, because of your aunt's—

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