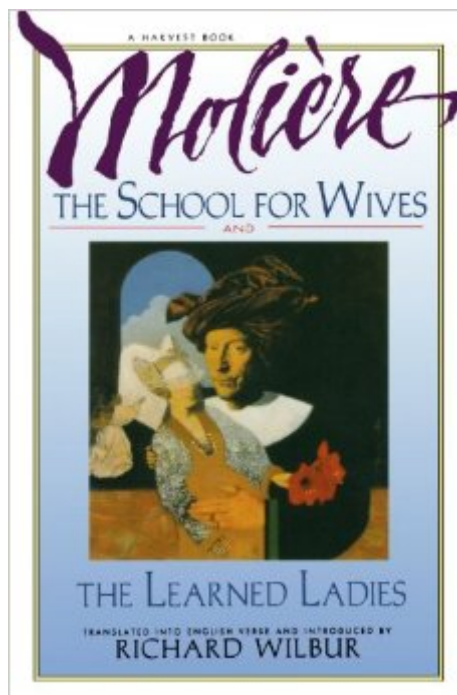


The book was found

The School For Wives And The Learned Ladies, By Moliere: Two Comedies In An Acclaimed Translation.



Synopsis

The *School for Wives* concerns an insecure man who contrives to show the world how to rig an infallible alliance by marrying the perfect bride; *The Learned Ladies* centers on the domestic calamities wrought by a domineering woman upon her husband, children, and household.

• *œWilbur...makes Molière into as great an English verse playwright as he was a French one* • (John Simon, New York). Introductions by Richard Wilbur.

Book Information

Paperback: 324 pages

Publisher: Harvest Books; 1 edition (November 15, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0156795027

ISBN-13: 978-0156795029

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #362,122 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #119 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Comedy #402 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > French #824 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > European

Customer Reviews

I've read all but one of Pulitzer-Prize winner Richard Wilbur's translations of French master playwright Moliere. This is my favorite. I was provoked to laugh out loud many times while reading it, something I rarely do with contemporary comedies, much less ones written in the 17th Century. The *School for Wives* I found more fresh and delightful than any present-day television sit-com and *The Learned Ladies* had its moments as well (especially the poetry reading by the pedantic Trissotin). The *School for Wives* centers around a man, Arnolfe, who is afraid of being cuckolded. He has raised a girl from when she was very young to know nothing but praying and sewing, so that when she marries she will not have the wherewithal to cheat on him. Of course, a young man in the neighborhood happens to see her while Arnolfe is out. In a series of misunderstandings, the young man ends up enlisting Arnolfe's aid in wooing the girl. Arnolfe's every attempt to thwart their union is in turn thwarted by her. She may have been raised ignorant, but she is not stupid. The *Learned Ladies* is, in present context, somewhat misogynist. Much of the comedy revolves around the

matriarch of a family who rules her household "like a man." The plot again involves young lovers separated by a willful parent. The daughter of the matriarch wants to wed a young man who is equally in love with her but her mother wants her to wed the stuck-up court poet Trissotin. This is really just a pretext for a lot of the deflation of pomposity at which Moliere excels. For those who like the old battle-of-the-sexes screwball comedies, here is a likely progenitor. The most famous of Moliere's plays are *The Misanthrope*, *The Hypochondriac* and *Tartuffe*. If you've already read them and like them, then I have no reservation recommending this delightful double-header.

Lovers of dramatic literature and poetry alike will be entranced by these masterful translations by Richard Wilbur of Moliere's work. While the two plays present in this volume are not as famous or frequently-produced as his "*Tartuffe*" and "*The Misanthrope*" readers will find they are equal in wit, rhyme and joy.

I bought this for class and I really love it. I thought it was going to be "another boring play" that I would have to read for that class, but I was so wrong. Moliere is freaking hilarious, and Wilbur does a great job of translating it. Though that's probably misleading of me to say since I don't actually speak French, nor have I ever encountered Moliere before purchasing this book. Seriously though, it's great, it's funny, you should definitely buy it.

Moliere and Wilbur, though they did not, of course, work together, are a match for Gilbert and Sullivan as a wedding of talents. Each of these plays is very funny and full of insights about human vanity.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The School for Wives and The Learned Ladies, by Moliere: Two comedies in an acclaimed translation. Wealth (The Comedies of Aristophanes, Vol. 2) (The Comedies of Aristophanes, Vol 2) (v. 2) (Ancient Greek Edition) Precious and Grace: No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency (17) (No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series) The Woman Who Walked in Sunshine: No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency (16) (No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series) Tartuffe, by Moliere Thinking Spanish Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Spanish to English (Thinking Translation) Better By The Dozen Plus Two, Part Two: Lessons Learned through Loss and Leukemia by a Family of Sixteen By Robert M. Sapolsky - Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers: The Acclaimed Guide to Stress, Stress-Related Diseases, and Coping - Now Revised and Updated (Third Edition) (8/16/04) Between Death and Life - Conversations with a Spirit: An internationally acclaimed hypnotherapist's

guide to past lives, guardian angels and the death experience Why We Write: 20 Acclaimed Authors on How and Why They Do What They Do Recovery of Your Inner Child: The Highly Acclaimed Method for Liberating Your Inner Self Dinosaur!: Based on the acclaimed four-part A&E television series hosted by Walter Cronkite Mere Mortals: Six One-Act Comedies - Acting Edition The Comedies (Classics) Four Comedies: The Braggart Soldier; The Brothers Menaechmus; The Haunted House; The Pot of Gold (Oxford World's Classics) Three One Act Comedies for Teens: Back Stage, The Dating Habits of Teenage Nerds & Double Double Hospital in Trouble The Comedies of Machiavelli: The Woman from Andros; The Mandrake; Clizia (Hackett Classics) Two White Wives Blacked The Two Fat Ladies Ride Again Homework for Grown-ups: Everything You Learned at School and Promptly Forgot

[Dmca](#)