

**THE CIRCLE; A  
COMEDY IN  
THREE ACTS**

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The circle; a comedy in three acts by W. Somerset Maugham

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**W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM**

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THE MERRY-GO-ROUND  

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THE LAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN  
*(Sketches and Impressions in Andalusia)*

# THE CIRCLE

A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

BY

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM



NEW YORK  
GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

PERSONS OF THE PLAY

CLIVE CHAMPION-CHENEY

ARNOLD CHAMPION-CHENEY, M.P.

LORD PORTEOUS

EDWARD LUTON

LADY CATHERINE CHAMPION-CHENEY

ELIZABETH

MRS. SHENSTONE.

*The action takes place at Aston-Adey, Arnold Champion-Cheney's house in Dorset.*





## THE FIRST ACT



# THE CIRCLE

## THE FIRST ACT

*The Scene is a stately drawing-room at Aston-Adey, with fine pictures on the walls and Georgian furniture. Aston-Adey has been described, with many illustrations, in Country Life. It is not a house, but a place. Its owner takes a great pride in it, and there is nothing in the room which is not of the period. Through the French windows at the back can be seen the beautiful gardens which are one of the features.*

*It is a fine summer morning.*

ARNOLD comes in. *He is a man of about thirty-five, tall and good-looking, fair, with a clean-cut, sensitive face. He has a look that is intellectual, but somewhat bloodless. He is very well dressed.*

ARNOLD. [Calling.] Elizabeth! [He goes to the window and calls again.] Elizabeth! [He rings the bell. While he is waiting he gives a look round the room. He slightly alters the position of one of the chairs. He takes an ornament from the chimney-piece and blows the dust from it.]

[A FOOTMAN comes in.]

Oh, Georget see if you can find Mrs. Cheney, and ask her if she'd be good enough to come here.

FOOTMAN. Very good, sir.

[The FOOTMAN turns to go.]

ARNOLD. Who is supposed to look after this room?

FOOTMAN. I don't know, sir.

ARNOLD. I wish when they dust they'd take care to replace the things exactly as they were before.