LITTLE EYOLF: A PLAY

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Little Eyolf: a play by Henrik Ibsen

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HENRIK IBSEN

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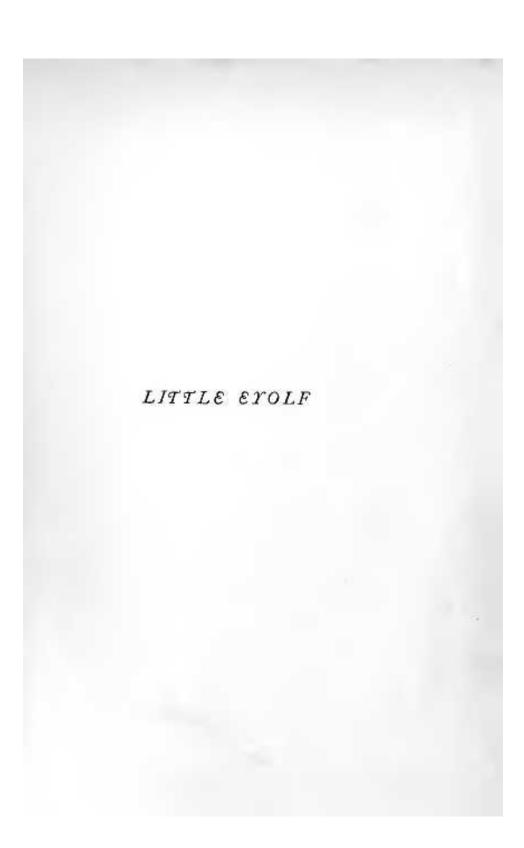


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LITTLE EYOLF

A PLAY
In Three Acts

By HENRIK IBSEN

Translated from the Nerwegian by WILLIAM ARCHER

LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN
MDCCCXCV

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PERSONS

ALFRED ALLMERS, landed proprietor, man of letters, formerly a tutor.

MRS. RITA ALLMERS, his wife.

EYOLF, their child, nine years old.

MISS ASTA ALLMERS, Alfred's younger half-sister.

ENGINEER BORGHEIM.

THE RAT-WIPE.

The action takes place on Allmers's property, bordering on the fiord, twelve or fourteen miles from Christiania.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

The word "Rat-Wife" is formed on the analogy of "Fishwife," "Hen-wife," "Housewife," &c., the "wife" (German "weib") implying merely a woman—not necessarily a married woman,

The verse quoted on pp. 60 and 61, is the last line of a very well-known poem by Johan Sebastian Welhaven, entitlea "Republikanerne," written in 1839. An unknown guest in a Paris restaurant has been challenged by a noisy party of young Frenchmen to join them in drinking a health to Poland. He refuses; they denounce him as a craven and a slave; he bares his breast and shows the scars of wounds received in fighting for the country whose lost cause has become a subject for conventional enthusiasm and windy oratory.

"De saae paa hverandre. Han vandred sin vei.
De havde champagne, men rörte den ei."

"They looked at each other. He went on his way. There stood their champagne, but they did not touch it."