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Reviews

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DAISY MILLER: A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Henry James s famous study of the American girl is here remodeled into a play; several new characters are introduced and the ending is changed, Daisy being married to Winterbourne in place of dying with the malaria, as in the book. * * * * * We wonder why the author should have been moved to change its form. As first written, the sketch had its own genuine and unstrained touch of pathos which now is lost. The Comedy, with its lively and pointed dialogue, is certainly very entertaining. Several new figures are introduced, among them Miss Durand, who with her affectation of simplicity and make-believe regard for the conventional proprieties, serves as an excellent foil to the heroine. The courier Eugenio is promoted in the Comedy to be a person of importance, and has, in stage parlance, a capital part. Madame de Katkoff also plays an effective role. Certain dense readers there are to whom Daisy Miller has been a stumbling-block, and, unable to comprehend the author s purpose, they have vented themselves in a good deal of needless indignation against Mr. James s supposed lack of patriotism. The story in its present expanded form, and with its altered denouement, may possibly illuminate the minds of these persons. But, as we began by saying, we prefer the sketch as it was first given us: it was consistent and complete, needing no explanation or apology for readers of ordinary intelligence. We think we were more in sympathy with the Daisy who died of malaria than the Daisy revived from the grave and performing before the footlights. But perhaps this is to press a point too far, since, after...

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