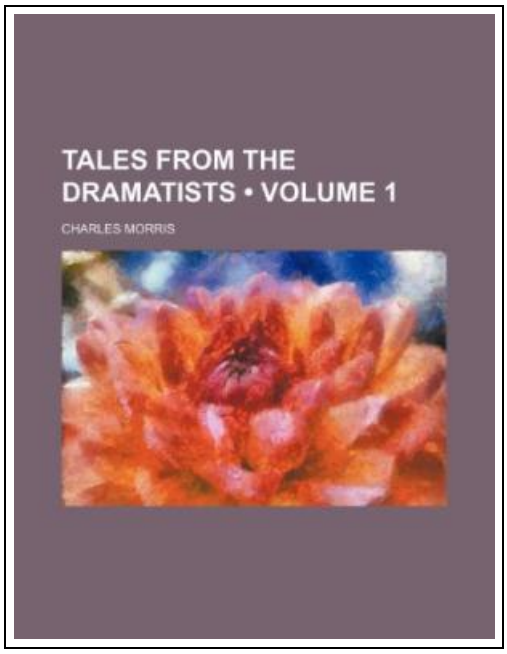
Tales from the Dramatists Volume 1



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General Books LLC. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 46 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1893. Excerpt: . . . THE BUSYBODY, BY SUSANNAH CENTLIVBE. THE authoress of the amusing comedy whose story we give below, was the daughter of a Lincolnshire gentleman named Freeman. She was born about 1667, probably in Ireland, whither her father had gone on the accession of Charles II. Being left a penniless orphan at eleven years of age, she came to London, where her wit and beauty proved so attractive that she won the heart of Sir Stephen Fox, whom she married at the age of sixteen. He died within a year, and she soon afterwards married an officer named Carroll, who was killed in a duel. Left destitute by his death, she began writing for the stage, her first work being a tragedy, The Perjured Husband, which was produced in 1700. She afterwards became an actress herself, and in 1706 married Joseph Centlivre, chief cook to Queen Anne. She died in 1723. She wrote in all nineteen plays, of which The Busybody, A Bold Stroke for a Husband, and others, are still occasionally played. They are marked by lively plots and humorous incident. Of these plays, The Busybody, whose story we give, has won the highest reputation. Sir George Airy, a young gentleman of London, found himself in the awkward dilemma of being in love with two ladies at once, though the two but fairly made up one, since he loved the face of the one and the mind of the other. As he himself expressed it:...

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