



# The Misanthrope, Tartuffe, and Other Plays

*Molière , Maya Slater (Translator)*

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## **The Misanthrope, Tartuffe, and Other Plays** Molière , Maya Slater (Translator)

This unique volume brings together four of Molière's greatest verse comedies covering the best years of his prolific writing career. Actor, director, and playwright, Molière (1622-73) was one of the finest and most influential French dramatists, adept at portraying human foibles and puncturing pomposity. *The School for Wives* was his first great success; *Tartuffe*, condemned and banned for five years, his most controversial play. *The Misanthrope* is his acknowledged masterpiece, and *The Clever Women* his last, and perhaps best-constructed, verse piece. In addition this collection includes a spirited attack on his enemies and a defense of his theater, in the form of two sparkling short plays, *The School for Wives Criticized* and *The Impromptu at Versailles*.

## **The Misanthrope, Tartuffe, and Other Plays Details**

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# From Reader Review The Misanthrope, Tartuffe, and Other Plays for online ebook

## Jan says

I really enjoy all of Moliere's work. He's funny; even being so long ago, the comedy holds. I saw School for Wives and nearly laughed my head off, especially when the actors over-acted, which I could picture Moliere doing on stage; all part of the satire.

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## Rick says

Hilarious and enlightening. I understand a lot more about French humor, and even the odd affection for Lewis, now.

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## Angela Gill says

I read these in about 1961 but read them in French.

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## Kate says

LOVE Moliere, he's like a French Oscar Wilde, very witty and satirical. Tartuffe is hilarious, and so is The Imaginary Invalid. Good 'reading' plays, as opposed to plays that are best on stage only. The language in these is so rich that it practically reads like a novel.

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## Suzanne says

I'm not the greatest fan of theater and I'm not very good at reading plays. I tend to be underwhelmed by them. Moliere's are no exception. That being said, I did enjoy them. I just didn't find them to be brilliant which is more a shortcoming on my part than his, I'm sure.

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## Patrice says

I just read Tartuffe and I have to say I liked it. Moliere raises some interesting ideas, reality vs. appearance, hypocrisy vs piety, and how even true piety can lead people astray. I can see the revolution brewing.

I also want to mention that Slater, very bravely, translated the French into rhymed couplets. I loved that. It was fun to read, reminded me of Dr. Seuss.

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### **Summer says**

Actually, not so much recommending this specific book as much as I am recommending reading everything by the man. I would say if you have never read anything by him, to start with Tartuffe, where you can get an instant appreciation for his (beautifully barbed) insight into human nature.

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### **Miss Ryoko says**

Well, this is sort of a lie because I didn't read the entire book - I only read Tartuffe. Haha! Maybe some day I will read the others, but for now, I only wanted to re-read Tartuffe. It's such a fun play! I really like the characters. The fact that it all rhymes is kind of fun too, but at times, gets annoying. I'd love to be in a production of this. I think it'd be a lot of fun.

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### **John Matthew says**

I read Tartuffe on a plane and really enjoyed it.

This is a good translation that was enjoyable to read.

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### **Andrew Plasom-Scott says**

A great comic genius - and so reassuring to find I've been speaking prose all my life!

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### **Victoria Jackson says**

Very clever speeches, some of which were brought into the film Moliere. I particularly like the Misanthrope who always speaks his mind and when asked his opinion of a poem starts gently in the third person with "I tried to tell this friend not to write any more". Also the incident where the young couple are singing to the father about loving each other on the pretext of it being a singing lesson. Has to be acted to be appreciated. There is one play about wife being beaten with a stick by her husband, a bit politically incorrect these days, I wonder how it would be acted in a contemporary production. There aren't enough Moliere productions. I haven't seen one since "Rock Tartuffe" at the Edinburgh Festival years ago.

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### **erock says**

Moliere is funny. In all of my theater classes in college during which I never read anything (other than Master Plots summaries and other people's notes) I never really paid much attention to the things we were supposed to do. It makes me sad to think that now that I have read some plays I should have read 11 years ago, I have no one to talk to about how damn funny they are, oh well, life lessons!

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### **Scratchmaster Spazz says**

French people.....sheesh!

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### **Kris says**

I read "The School for Wives" for a theatre class. The social commentary is intriguing as it deals with the issue of femininity from the male's perspective. Women, despite being a minority and socially subjugated, hold the most power in this play by virtue of the male fear of cuckoldry.

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### **Richard Vratana says**

The superficial entertainment of the 16th century French courtiers was too dated for me.

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