

*Lady
Windermere's
Fan*



OSCAR WILDE

Lady Windermere's Fan

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Lady Windermere's Fan

Oscar Wilde

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY



Lord Windermere
Lord Darlington
Lord Augustus Lorton
Mr. Dumby
Mr. Cecil Graham
Mr. Hopper
Parker, Butler

Lady Windermere
The Duchess of Berwick
Lady Agatha Carlisle
Lady Plymdale
Lady Stutfield
Lady Jedburgh
Mrs. Cowper-Cowper
Mrs. Erlynne
Rosalie, Maid

THE SCENES OF THE PLAY

Act I. Morning-room in Lord Windermere's house.

Act II. Drawing-room in Lord Windermere's house.

Act III. Lord Darlington's rooms.

Act IV. Same as Act I.

Time: The Present.

Place: London.

The action of the play takes place within twenty-four hours, beginning on a Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock, and ending the next day at 1.30 p.m.

FIRST ACT



SCENE

Morning-room of Lord Windermere's house in Carlton House Terrace . Doors C. and R. Bureau with books and papers R. Sofa with small tea-table L. Window opening on to terrace L. Table R.

[Lady Windermere is at table R. , arranging roses in a blue bowl .]

[*Enter* Parker.]

Parker. Is your ladyship at home this afternoon?

Lady Windermere. Yes—who has called?

Parker. Lord Darlington, my lady.

Lady Windermere. [*Hesitates for a moment .*] Show him up—and I'm at home to any one who calls.

Parker. Yes, my lady.

[*Exit C. .*]

Lady Windermere. It's best for me to see him before tonight. I'm glad he's come.

[*Enter* Parker C.]

Parker. Lord Darlington,

[*Enter* Lord Darlington C.]

[*Exit* Parker.]

Lord Darlington. How do you do, Lady Windermere?

Lady Windermere. How do you do, Lord Darlington? No, I can't shake hands with you. My hands are all wet with these roses. Aren't they lovely? They came up from Selby this morning.

Lord Darlington. They are quite perfect. [*Sees a fan lying*

on the table .] And what a wonderful fan! May I look at it? Lady Windermere. Do. Pretty, isn't it! It's got my name on it, and everything. I have only just seen it myself. It's my husband's birthday present to me. You know today is my birthday?

Lord Darlington. No? Is it really?

Lady Windermere. Yes, I'm of age today. Quite an important day in my life, isn't it? That is why I am giving this party tonight. Do sit down. [*Still arranging flowers .]*

Lord Darlington. [*Sitting down .]* I wish I had known it was your birthday, Lady Windermere. I would have covered the whole street in front of your house with flowers for you to walk on. They are made for you.

[*A short pause .]*

Lady Windermere. Lord Darlington, you annoyed me last night at the Foreign Office. I am afraid you are going to annoy me again.

Lord Darlington. I, Lady Windermere?

[*Enter Parker and Footman C. , with tray and tea things .]*

Lady Windermere. Put it there, Parker. That will do. [*Wipes her hands with her pocket-handkerchief , goes to tea-table , and sits down .]* Won't you come over, Lord Darlington?

[*Exit Parker C. .]*

Lord Darlington. [*Takes chair and goes across L.C. .]* I am quite miserable, Lady Windermere. You must tell me what I did. [*Sits down at table L. .]*

Lady Windermere. Well, you kept paying me elaborate compliments the whole evening.

Lord Darlington. [*Smiling .]* Ah, nowadays we are all of us so hard up, that the only pleasant things to pay *are* compliments. They're the only things we *can* pay.

Lady Windermere. [*Shaking her head .]* No, I am talking very seriously. You mustn't laugh, I am quite serious. I don't like compliments, and I don't see why a man should think he is pleasing a woman enormously when he says to