

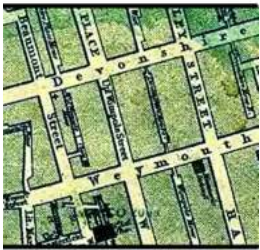
# The Barretts Of Wimpole Street: A Captivating Love Story



The Barretts Of Wimpole Street is a remarkable play written by Rudolf Besier. First performed in 1930, this captivating love story takes the audience on an emotional journey filled with romance, passion, and societal constraints. Set in the early 19th century, the play revolves around the intense love affair between renowned poet Elizabeth Barrett and fellow poet Robert Browning. Spanning across barriers of health, family, and social norms, their love becomes an inspiration for generations to come.

The Barretts Of Wimpole Street delves into the real-life story of Elizabeth Barrett, a talented poet who suffered from a mysterious illness that left her confined to her room for most of her life. Despite her ailment, Elizabeth's exceptional writing skills and sharp mind brought her recognition in the literary circles of London. Her father, Edward Moulton-Barrett, a strict patriarch, controlled her life, and the majority of his children lived a secluded existence under his watchful gaze.

RUDOLF BESIER



THE BARRETT'S  
OF WIMPOLE STREET

## The Barretts of Wimpole Street by S Rob(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 273 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 242 pages



Elizabeth's literary talent and intellect caught the attention of fellow poet Robert Browning, several years her junior. As their correspondence deepened, a passionate love story ensued, compelling them to overcome numerous obstacles in their pursuit of happiness. The play beautifully captures their struggle against societal norms, family dynamics, and the burden of illness.

### A Tale of Forbidden Love

The Barretts Of Wimpole Street skillfully presents the complexities of societal norms and expectations during the Victorian era. Elizabeth's father adamantly opposes her romantic involvement with anyone, believing that suitors would hinder her creativity. He becomes an antagonist in their love story, attempting to

maintain control over Elizabeth and her siblings, many of whom remained unmarried due to his dominance.

Elizabeth and Robert's love becomes a symbol of resilience and passion in the face of adversity. They must navigate their way through Elizabeth's fragile health, her familial duties, and most importantly, her father's opposition. The play highlights the power of love as a catalyst for change, giving hope to those who are bound by the shackles of societal expectations.

## **Uncovering the Struggles of Illness and Isolation**

Elizabeth's health issues play a significant role in *The Barretts Of Wimpole Street*. Confined to her room for years, she finds solace and joy in her poetry and correspondence with Robert. Her illness becomes a physical representation of the emotional confinement she experiences under her father's tyranny. Her fragility contrasts beautifully with her strong will and determination to be with the man she loves, showcasing the strength of her character.

The play emphasizes the importance of embracing true love despite the challenges life throws our way. It encourages us to break free from the confines of societal expectations and pursue our desires, even when faced with physical or emotional limitations.

## **An Everlasting Love Story**

*The Barretts Of Wimpole Street* weaves together elements of love, passion, and poetic brilliance that leave a lasting impact on the audience. Rudolf Besier's masterpiece captures the timeless essence of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning's love, reminding us that true love can conquer all barriers, whether they be physical, societal, or emotional.

This remarkable play continues to be performed and cherished by theater enthusiasts worldwide. Its powerful narrative, compelling characters, and evocative portrayal of love make it a staple in the realm of dramatic art.

The Barretts Of Wimpole Street serves as a reminder of the enduring power of love and the pursuit of happiness. It invites us to reflect on our own lives and relationships, encouraging us to embrace our innermost desires, just as Elizabeth and Robert did.

, The Barretts Of Wimpole Street is a captivating love story that has stood the test of time. Through its exploration of societal norms, health struggles, and the triumph of true love, the play offers a profound and evocative experience to its audience. It remains a shining example of the resilience of the human spirit and the unyielding power of love.

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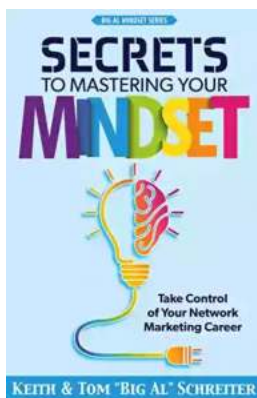
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Rudolf Wilhelm Besier was born in Blitar, East Java, in the Dutch East Indies, on July 2nd, 1878. His father, the Dutch soldier Rudolf Wilhelm Besier, died whilst his mother, Margaret Ann Collinson, was pregnant with him. He was given his father's name in respect and remembrance. As a playwright his early career,

which began with *The Virgin Goddess* in 1906, was somewhat limited. In 1912 he worked with HG Wells to turn *Kipps* into a stage play and after the war with Hugh Walpole on *Robin's Father*. Other plays were produced but received little attention. His great success came only in 1930. *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* was based on Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning's courtship. It was rejected by two London producers but did get to premiere at the Malvern Festival of 1930, produced by Sir Barry Jackson. (The first Malvern Drama Festival took place in 1929 dedicated to Bernard Shaw, six Shaw plays have debuted at Malvern including the 1929 English première of *The Apple Cart*, and the world première of *Geneva* in 1938). Alas, American producers were not at all interested. Twenty seven were approached and 27 rejected it. The actress Katharine Cornell however staged it at the Hanna Theatre in Cleveland in 1931, and then New York where it opened on February 9th, 1931 at the Empire Theatre, starring Katharine Cornell and Brian Aherne. *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* became a major theatrical success and was turned, in 1934, into a glossy MGM film, starring Fredric March, Norma Shearer and Charles Laughton. The play was later used as the basis for a 1964 musical *Robert and Elizabeth*. Rudolf Besier died in Surrey on June 16th, 1942, at the age of 63.



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