



AN IDEAL HUSBAND

OSCAR WILDE

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**BY
OSCAR WILDE**

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An Ideal Husband By Oscar Wilde.

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MABEL CHILTERN. You'll stop to luncheon, Lord Caversham, won't you?

LORD CAVERSHAM. With pleasure, and I'll drive you down to Downing Street afterwards, Chiltern. You have a great future before you, a great future. Wish I could say the same for you, sir. [To LORD GORING.] But your career will have to be entirely domestic.

LORD GORING. Yes, father, I prefer it domestic.

LORD CAVERSHAM. And if you don't make this young lady an ideal husband, I'll cut you off with a shilling.

MABEL CHILTERN. An ideal husband! Oh, I don't think I should like that. It sounds like something in the next world.

LORD CAVERSHAM. What do you want him to be then, dear?

MABEL CHILTERN. He can be what he chooses. All I want is to be ... to be ... oh! a real wife to him.

LORD CAVERSHAM. Upon my word, there is a good deal of common sense in that, Lady Chiltern.

[*They all go out except SIR ROBERT CHILTERN. He sinks in a chair, wrapt in thought. After a little time LADY CHILTERN returns to look for him.*]

LADY CHILTERN. [*Leaning over the back of the chair.*] Aren't you coming in, Robert?

SIR ROBERT CHILTERN. [*Taking her hand.*] Gertrude, is it love you feel for me, or is it pity merely?

LADY CHILTERN. [*Kisses him.*] It is love, Robert. Love, and only love. For both of us a new life is beginning.

CURTAIN
