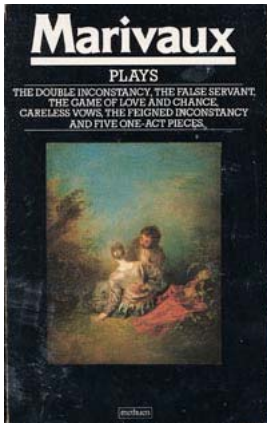


Harlequin's Lesson in Love by Pierre Carlet de Marivaux



A sophisticated fairy is trying to make a gentleman out of a not-so-sophisticated man. She wishes to cast a spell on the uncouth Harlequin, but at the same time must hide from the magician Merlin, whom she has jilted. Despite her thorough lessons in etiquette and presentation, Harlequin makes little progress and appears 'unrefineable'. It is only when he meets Sylvia, however, that he is transformed into something quite different . . .

Harlequin's Lesson in Love was first performed in 1720 by the Comédie Italienne.

'Marivaux's scepticism, irony and fascination with money and sex make him seem peculiarly modern' *Guardian*

Genre:	Romantic drama	Fee:	£30 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m4 f2 (plus chorus)	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413185600 £14.99
Set:	pastoral setting	Length:	21 scenes
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EXTRACT

Harlequin So there you are, little heart!

little flirt. (*He weeps.*)

Silvia (*laughing*) Yes, my beloved.

Silvia (*tenderly, taking him by the chin*) Don't cry, little lover, don't cry.

Harlequin How pleased are you to see me?

Harlequin (*still moaning*) You promised we'd be friends.

Silvia Enough.

Harlequin Enough! That's not enough.

Silvia Yes, and I've kept my promise.

Silvia Oh, yes it is. There's no need for more.

Harlequin No, you haven't. When you love someone you don't stop him kissing your hand. (*Offering her his hand.*) Look, here's mine. You see if I'll do what you did.

Harlequin (*now takes her by the hand, SILVIA seems embarrassed. Harlequin, still holding her hand, says*) But I don't want you to talk like that. (*He tries to kiss her hand as he says these words.*)

Silvia (*withdrawing her hand*). Well, I won't have you kissing my hand.

Silvia (*recalling her cousin's advice and as if aside*) Oh, my cousin can say what she likes, but I can't keep it up. (*Aloud*) There, there, my love. I'll let you kiss my hand as you want it so much. To make you feel better. Kiss it. But listen, don't start asking me how much I love you, for I'll never tell you more than half of what I feel.

Harlequin (*angry*) Oh, you won't, will you? You're just a

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *Double Inconstancy* by Marivaux (m4 f3)
- *Careless Vows* by Marivaux (m5 f3)
- *Albert's Boy* by James Graham (m2)

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