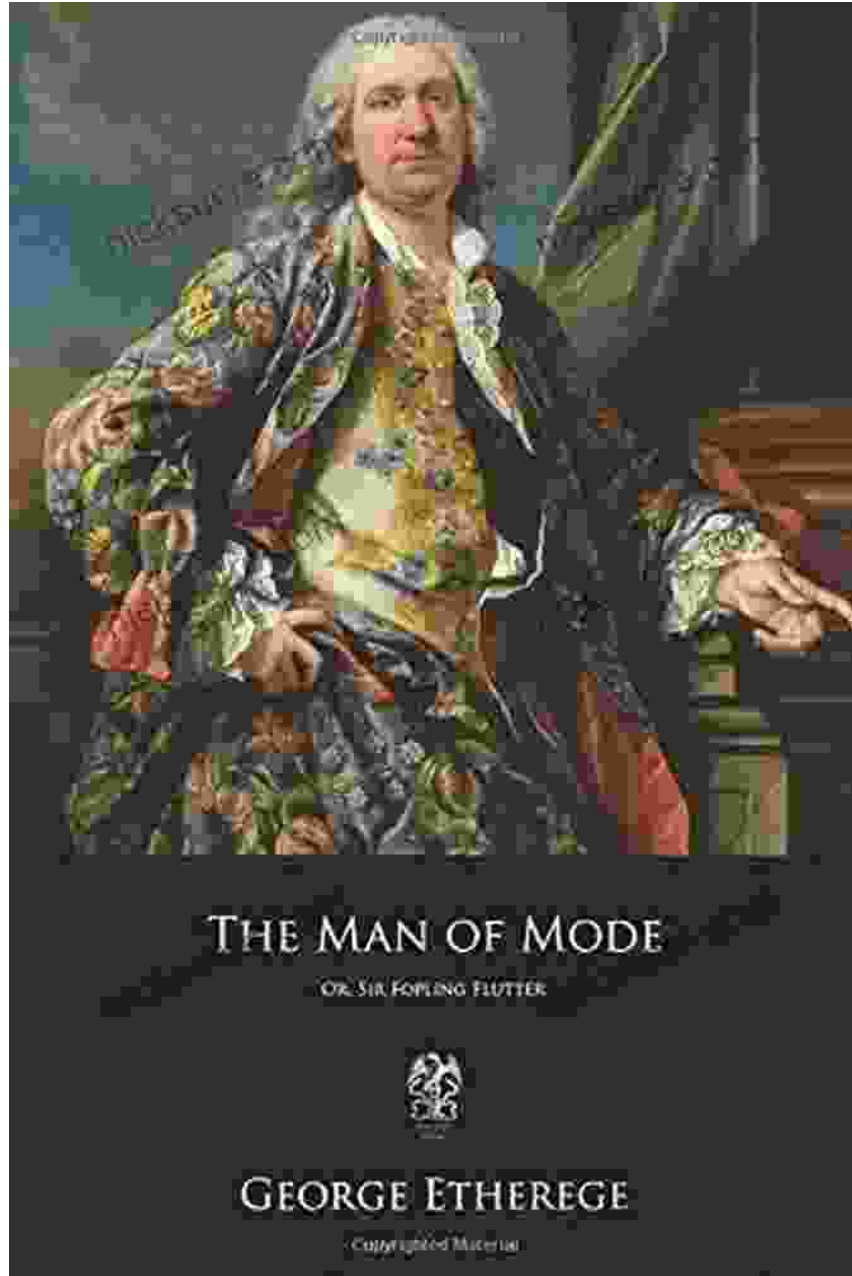
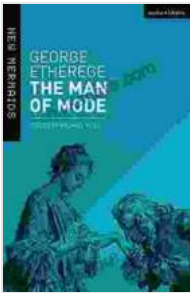


The Man of Mode: A Reimagined Classic for the Modern Reader



George Etherege's witty and scandalous masterpiece, *The Man of Mode*, has captivated audiences for over three centuries with its sharp social satire and unforgettable characters. This new edition from the esteemed

New Mermaids series breathes new life into the play, making it accessible and engaging for contemporary readers.



The Man of Mode: New Edition (New Mermaids)

by Mark Wheeler

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3454 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 158 pages



A Brief Synopsis

Set in the hedonistic world of Restoration England, *The Man of Mode* follows the misadventures of Sir Fopling Flutter, a fashion-obsessed fop who attempts to seduce the virtuous Harriet Woodville, the object of young Bellmour's affections. As the plot unfolds, love and deceit intertwine, revealing the complexities of social hierarchy and the hypocrisy that often resides beneath the veneer of politeness.

A Sparkling Cast of Characters

Etherege's characters are a vibrant and unforgettable ensemble, each with their own distinct quirks and aspirations. At the center of the play is the titular Man of Mode, Sir Fopling Flutter, a vain and preening aristocrat who believes his appearance and wit to be unmatched. His constant attention to his attire and behavior make him the subject of both laughter and derision.

In stark contrast to Fopling is Harriet Woodville, a young lady of impeccable virtue and strong will. Her intelligence and grace captivate both Bellmour and Medley, two gentlemen who genuinely love her. Bellmour is a charming and witty admirer, while Medley is a more thoughtful and patient suitor.

Other notable characters include Dorimant, a cynical and libertine aristocrat who uses his intelligence and charisma to manipulate others; Loveit, a witty and free-spirited woman who sees through Fopling's vanity; and Old Bellair, a crusty uncle who serves as a voice of reason in the midst of the folly.

Social Satire and Restoration Values

While *The Man of Mode* is ostensibly a comedy of manners, it also offers a sharp critique of Restoration society. Etherege exposes the hypocrisy and superficiality that pervaded the upper classes, where fashion, reputation, and appearances were often prized above all else. The play satirizes the obsession with outward appearances, the pursuit of pleasure, and the casual disregard for virtue and morality.

Through the character of Fopling, Etherege ridicules the excessive preoccupation with fashion and etiquette. Fopling's flamboyant outfits and eccentric mannerisms become a symbol of the shallowness and absurdity of the society he represents. His constant attention to his hair, clothes, and speech draw attention to the artificiality and artifice that prevailed in Restoration England.

Harriet Woodville, on the other hand, embodies the virtues that are often lacking in this society. She is steadfast in her values, refusing to compromise her integrity or give in to the pressures of those around her.

Her intelligence and wit make her a force to be reckoned with, even in the face of adversity.

The Legacy of *The Man of Mode*

The Man of Mode has had a profound impact on English literature, serving as a model for later comedies of manners. Its sharp wit and satirical edge have influenced countless playwrights, including Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw. The play's characters have also become iconic figures, representing the excesses and contradictions of Restoration society.

This new edition from the New Mermaids series includes a comprehensive and extensive annotations that provide context and illuminate the play's literary and historical significance. The edition also features a glossary of terms and a guide to the characters, making it an invaluable resource for students, scholars, and general readers alike.

George Etherege's *The Man of Mode* is a timeless classic that offers a fascinating glimpse into the social mores of Restoration England. Its witty dialogue, memorable characters, and sharp social commentary make it a compelling read that continues to resonate with audiences today. This new edition from the New Mermaids series is an essential companion for anyone interested in English literature, Restoration comedy, or the history of manners.

Whether you are a seasoned theatergoer or a casual reader, *The Man of Mode* is a play that will entertain, provoke, and leave a lasting impression. Its themes of love, deception, and social hypocrisy are as relevant today as they were when the play was first written over 300 years ago. So sit back,

enjoy the sparkling wit and social satire, and discover the enduring legacy of one of Restoration England's most iconic comedies.

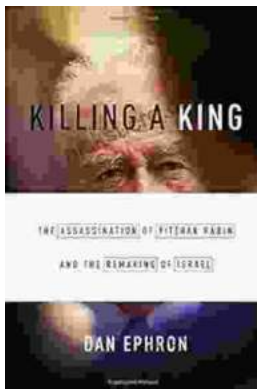


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