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IN THE CLOUDS

THE IMPRESSIONS OF A CHAIR

SARAH BERNHARDT

TRANSLATED BY JOHN JOLINE ROSS

ILLUSTRATED BY GEORGES CLAIRIN

- The only available edition of an important early Modernist tale by the renowned French actress Sarah Bernhardt.
- Richly illustrated by the famed French artist Georges Clairin.
- A missing chapter from the records of a life that still attracts a huge amount of interest.

In 1878 Gustave Flaubert looked on in horror as his publisher picked up a manuscript from the mysterious stage actress Sarah Bernhardt and published it in place of a new edition of his latest work, and watched it go on to become an instant bestseller, achieving international fame.

Narrated by a chair in a hot-air balloon, *In the Clouds* is a light-hearted, humorous tale that follows a character reminiscent of Bernhardt through the skies above Paris. Sadly the story sunk into obscurity, lying out of print in the English language for much of the twentieth century. Featuring the original illustrations by Georges Clairin, and in a fresh edit of the first English translation, this edition seeks to bring the tale to a new generation of readers.

‘Apart from its highly original premise... its jaunty style proved her to be a lively, amusing writer.’

ROBERT GOTTLIEB



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sarah Bernhardt (c.1844–1923) was a French stage actress whose career was followed by the public with extraordinary interest. As a writer Bernhardt is best known for her memoirs, although her short novella *Dans les nuages: Impressions d'une chaise* (*In the Clouds: The Impressions of a Chair*, 1878) is an important example of early Modernist writing, and was an instant bestseller upon its first publication.

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