



## The Brute: A Joke in One Act

By Anton Chekhov

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a short comedy for a cast of 2 males and one females. Eric Bentley, from Anton Chekhov's Russian Mrs. Popoff, widow of a landowner, has vowed never to remarry and abjures the company of men forever. Then Smirnoff, one of her late husband's creditors, forces himself into her presence. He's had some little experience of women and also sworn off love. So-- they seemed groomed for quarrelling and they do to the point where the anti feminist Smirnoff challenges her to a duel. To his surprise and delight-- she accepts. The misogynist creditor suddenly becomes a suitor and by the end it's realized Mrs. Popoff's widowhood is also about to end.

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## **The Brute: A Joke in One Act** By Anton Chekhov Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #12312275 in Books
- Published on: 1984
- Binding: Paperback
- 21 pages

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