The Misanthrope, written by Molière, is a comedy critiquing French high society during the 17th century. What interested me in this stand-alone play is how the behaviors of the characters during that time correlate to some social behaviors today.

The play is about a brutally honest man named Alceste. He is a member of a courtly society that is full of fake, two-faced people. The main conflict surrounds Célimène, a woman who has many suitors interested in her. She is known to be a flirt, and tells everyone, including Alceste, that they are the only man for her.

I like the main characters because they all have contrasting personalities. Alceste is an incredibly straightforward person who is not shy about his criticism. Philinte on the other hand, treats everybody politely in court society, acting as a foil to Alceste. I like how Célimène knows of her desirable status and uses that to gossip and play with the suitors' feelings.

This work reminds me of Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest as they are both plays that which deception and dishonesty play a large role. I liked this play because the manners in which the characters gossip about each other back in the 17th century are very similar to the way people gossip about each other, only with the vocabulary of the older time.

I would recommend this play to fans of the show Bridgerton because similarities in the types of conflicts in the show and the play are evident. The cover of the play depicts a man in garments of French court society, which gives readers context on what the characters could look like, but I did not find the cover to be particularly interesting or important to the play at all.

Submitted by:
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