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A HOUSE PARTY BY OUIDA.

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A HOUSE PARTY.

A STORY.

BY

OUIDA,

AUTHOR OF "SIGNA," "MOTHS," ETC.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1886.

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A HOUSE PARTY.

CHAPTER I.

IT is an August morning. It is an old English Manor-house. There is a breakfast-room hung with old gilded leather of the time of the Stuarts; it has oak furniture of the same period; it has leaded lattices, with painted glass in some of their frames, and the motto of the house in old French "*J'ay bon vouloir*" emblazoned there, with the crest of a heron resting in a crown. Thence, windows open on to a green, quaint, lovely garden, which was laid out by Monsieur Beaumont when he planned the gardens of Hampton Court. There are clipped yew tree walks and arbours and fantastic forms; there are stone terraces and steps like those of Haddon, and there are peacocks which pace and perch upon