

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND OTHER PLAYS

Richard Rockwell's father is one of the richest men in New York. He thinks that money can buy anything you want. It certainly helps with most things, but can it buy love for young Richard?

Bobby Gillian has a different problem. His uncle left him a thousand dollars in his will, and Bobby doesn't know what to spend it on. People think that he is only interested in girls, champagne, and betting on horses, but perhaps there is more to him than that.

For Towers Chandler and Miss Martha, money is less important than love. But they both discover the sad truth that it is only too easy to say or do the wrong thing, and lose their chance of love.



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Playscripts

One Thousand Dollars
and Other Plays

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One Thousand Dollars and Other Plays

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CONTENTS

All that Money can Buy	1
One Thousand Dollars	11
A Night Out	23
Two Loaves of Bread	31
 GLOSSARY	 39
ACTIVITIES: Before Reading	42
ACTIVITIES: While Reading	44
ACTIVITIES: After Reading	46
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	50
ABOUT THE BOOKWORMS LIBRARY	51

INTRODUCTION

A young man is in love with a beautiful girl. But can his rich father's money help him to marry her?

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Anthony Rockwell, a rich man

Richard Rockwell, his son

Aunt Ellen, Anthony's sister and Richard's aunt

Miss Lantry, a beautiful young woman

Taxi driver

Kelly, a man who works for Anthony Rockwell

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Scene 1: A room at Anthony Rockwell's home, with a desk and two or three chairs

Scene 2: As Scene 1

Scene 3: As Scene 1

Scene 4: The inside of a taxi, with one long seat at the back, and a single seat at the front for the driver

Scene 5: In Anthony Rockwell's bedroom, a room with a bed, a cupboard and two chairs

Scene 6: As Scene 1

You will need a book, a cup, a glass, a ring, and a packet of sheets of paper (to look like money).

All that Money can Buy

SCENE 1

A fine boy

A room at Anthony Rockwell's house in New York. He is sitting at his desk reading. His son, Richard, comes in.

RICHARD You wanted to see me, father?

ANTHONY Richard, what do you pay for your suits?

RICHARD (*Surprised*) About sixty dollars, I think, Dad.

ANTHONY You're a fine boy. Some young men pay more than a hundred dollars. You have more money than most of them, but you're careful.

RICHARD (*Sadly*) Yes, Dad.

ANTHONY Yes, you're a fine boy, and you can thank money for that. Money will do it every time.

Richard sits down in a chair. He looks sad.

RICHARD There are some things that money can't do.

ANTHONY Now don't say that. You can buy anything.

RICHARD Your money can't buy me a way into older and better families than ours.

ANTHONY (*Angrily*) Can't it? (*Looking closely at Richard*) There's something wrong. What is it?

RICHARD Well, Dad . . .

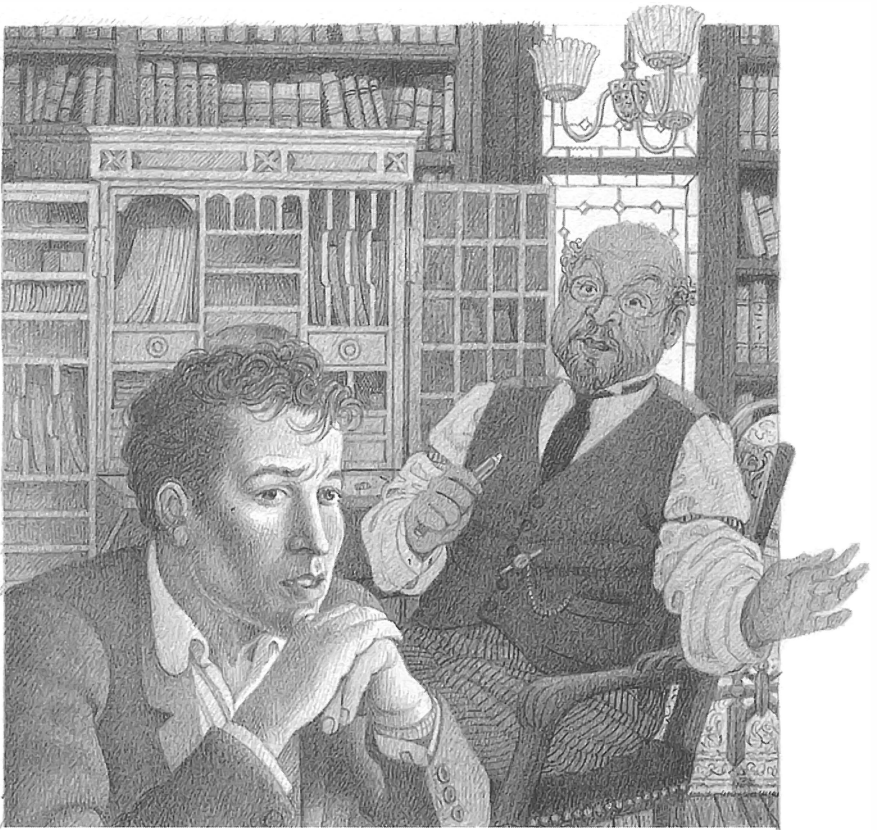
ANTHONY Tell me. I can get ten million dollars in twenty-

One Thousand Dollars and Other Plays

four hours. I can have a boat ready to take you to the Bahamas in two days. Why aren't you happy?

RICHARD Well . . . there's a girl . . .

ANTHONY (*Interested*) What's her name? You've got money, and you're a nice young man. Take her for a walk, or a ride. Walk home with her from church.



'Why aren't you happy?'

All that Money can Buy

RICHARD You don't know her family. Every hour of her time is planned days before. I love her, but how can I tell her? I can't write down all the things that I want to say.

ANTHONY Are you telling me that you can't get an hour or two of the girl's time? And with all the money I've got!

RICHARD It's too late now. In two days she's going to Europe for two years. I'm going to see her alone tomorrow evening for seven or eight minutes.

ANTHONY Seven or eight minutes!

RICHARD She's staying in the country at her aunt's.

ANTHONY Go and see her there!

RICHARD I can't. But I'm meeting her at the station with a taxi tomorrow evening at 8.30. We'll drive to Wallack's Theatre. She's meeting her mother and some of her friends there.

ANTHONY (*Looking thoughtful*) It won't take long to drive down Broadway to the theatre.

RICHARD I know. Will I get time to tell her everything that I want to tell her? No. No, father, your money can't help me. It can't buy me one minute of time.

ANTHONY All right, Richard, my boy. Go out with your friends now. You say that money can't buy time? Well, money can buy most things.

SCENE 2

True love is everything!

The same room, that evening. Anthony Rockwell is talking to his sister, Ellen. They are sitting in chairs. Ellen has a cup of coffee. Anthony has a glass of something stronger.

ANTHONY He says that ten million dollars can't buy a way into older and better families than ours, Ellen.

ELLEN Anthony, you're always thinking about money. But money is nothing. True love is everything! Why didn't Richard speak to the girl earlier?

ANTHONY I don't know.

ELLEN How could a girl say no to a fine boy like him? And now there's no time. When does she go to Europe?

ANTHONY The day after tomorrow.



'True love is everything!'

All that Money can Buy

ELLEN Poor Richard! All your money cannot make him happy. Oh dear! Oh dear!

SCENE 3

The ring

The same room, the next evening. Richard is dressed to go out. Ellen is with him. She is giving him a ring.

ELLEN Wear this ring tonight. Your mother gave it to me. She said that it brought good luck in love. ‘Give it to Richard when he falls in love with a girl,’ she told me.

Richard tries to put it on his smallest finger, but the ring is too small. He puts it in his coat pocket.

RICHARD It’s too small to wear, but I’ll keep it safe.

ELLEN Good luck, Richard.

RICHARD Thank you, aunt.

SCENE 4

A lot of traffic

Richard and Miss Lantry are in the back of a taxi. The taxi driver is sitting in front.

MISS LANTRY We must hurry. Mother doesn’t like waiting.

One Thousand Dollars and Other Plays

RICHARD *(To the taxi driver)* To Wallack's Theatre. As quickly as you can, driver!

TAXI DRIVER Yes, sir. *(He starts driving.)*

RICHARD I want to tell you—

MISS LANTRY *(Looking out of the taxi)* Where are we?

RICHARD What? Oh, we're turning from Forty-Second Street into Broadway. But I wanted to tell you—

MISS LANTRY How long will it take to get to the theatre?

RICHARD Seven or eight minutes. *(He takes the ring from his pocket.)* I want to show you – oh! *(He drops the ring and it falls out of the taxi window.)*

Driver, stop! Stop!

MISS LANTRY What is it?

RICHARD I've dropped a ring. It was my mother's. I must look for it. I don't want to lose it. It won't take a minute.

Richard gets out of the taxi and looks on the ground.

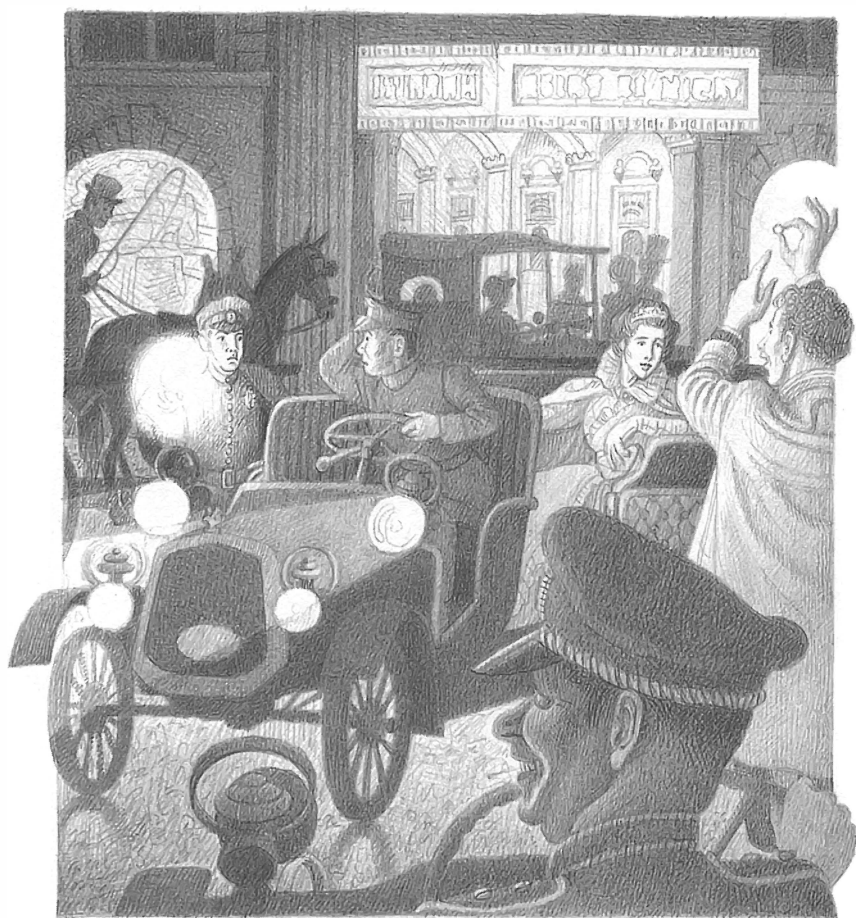
Miss Lantry looks worriedly at her watch. The taxi driver is looking round him in surprise. Traffic noises are heard. After a minute, Richard comes back.

RICHARD I've got it! On you go, driver.

TAXI DRIVER Sorry, sir. But I can't.

MISS LANTRY Why don't you drive on? We'll be late.

RICHARD *(Standing up in the taxi and looking round)* Has all the traffic in New York stopped around us? Where did it all come from?



'I've got it!'

TAXI DRIVER I don't know, sir.

MISS LANTRY Where are the police? Can't they help?

RICHARD I'm very sorry. We can't go on, and it'll take an
hour to move all this traffic away!

MISS LANTRY Show me the ring. We can't help this.

(Smiling) And I don't like theatres very much.

SCENE 5

True love

Anthony Rockwell's bedroom. He is sitting up in bed reading. There is a knock at the door.

ANTHONY Who is it?

ELLEN It's me.

ANTHONY Come in, Ellen.

Ellen comes into the room. She looks excited.

ELLEN She is going to marry our Richard!

Anthony smiles. He does not look surprised.

ANTHONY Oh? Is that right?

Ellen sits down on a chair near the bed.

ELLEN They had to stop on the way to the theatre. And what stopped them? Not your money! It was a little ring!

ANTHONY (*Still smiling*) What happened? Tell me.

ELLEN Richard dropped the ring in the street. He got out to find it, and suddenly there was traffic everywhere!

ANTHONY How strange!

ELLEN Yes! It was two hours before the taxi could move again! So he had time to tell her that he loved her.

ANTHONY And they're going to marry, are they? Well, I'm happy to hear it.

All that Money can Buy

ELLEN Don't ever say 'Money can buy anything!' to me again, Anthony. Not after tonight. It isn't true. Money is nothing when you have true love.

SCENE 6

A good day's work

Next morning. Anthony is in his study. With him is Kelly.

ANTHONY Thank you, Kelly. That was a good day's work. Now, what did I give you? Five thousand dollars?

KELLY Yes, Mr Rockwell, and I paid out three hundred dollars of my own money. I got the taxis for five dollars, but the other drivers wanted ten dollars. But the police were the worst.

ANTHONY Were they?

KELLY Yes. They wanted fifty dollars. But everything went beautifully, Mr Rockwell. Everybody arrived at the right time. It was two hours before anybody moved!

Rockwell gives Kelly a packet, with money inside it.

ANTHONY Here you are, Kelly. One thousand for your work, and your three hundred back. OK?

KELLY Thank you.

ANTHONY (*Laughing*) Thank you, Kelly. Money talks, right?

INTRODUCTION

A young man's uncle leaves him one thousand dollars in his will. What can the young man do with it?

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Bobby Gillian, a young man

Mr Tolman, a lawyer

Mr Sharp, a lawyer

Miss Hayden, a pretty young woman

Miss Lotta Lauriere, a dancer

Bryson, a man of forty

Man at the theatre

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Scene 1: A lawyers' office, with a desk and two chairs

Scene 2: A restaurant, with tables and chairs

Scene 3: Theatre dressing room, with a dressing table, clothes cupboard and a mirror

Scene 4: As Scene 1

Scene 5: The living room in Bobby's uncle's house, with a table and chair

Scene 6: As Scene 1

You will need a piece of paper that looks like a will, another piece of paper with writing on it, some writing paper, a pen, a packet of money, a book, and a cup.

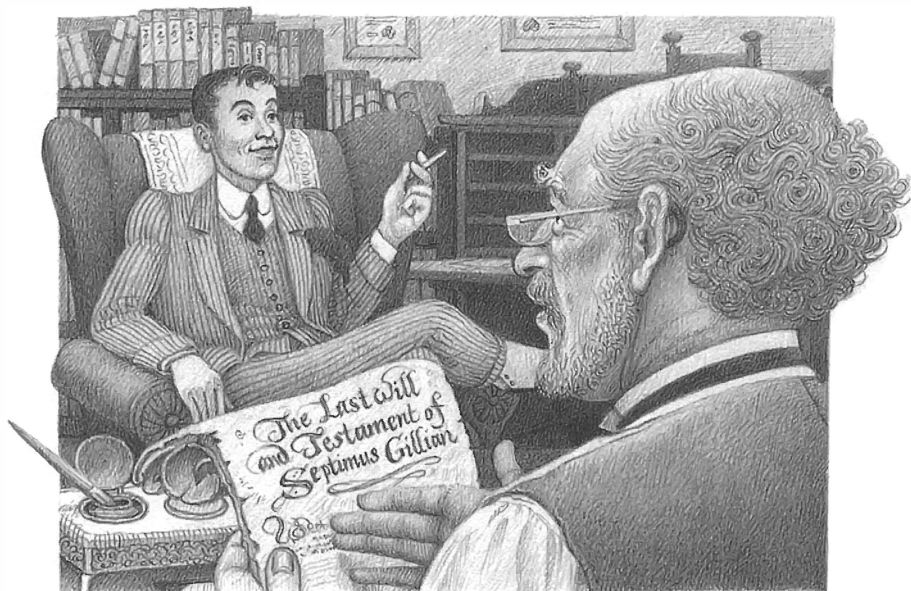
One Thousand Dollars

SCENE 1

The will

In Tolman and Sharp's office. Mr Tolman is sitting behind his desk. He has just finished reading a will. Bobby Gillian is sitting the other side of the desk.

TOLMAN Well, there you are. Your uncle wrote his will a month or two before he died, and now I've read it to you. What do you think?



One Thousand Dollars and Other Plays

BOBBY (*Laughing*) It's not going to be easy to spend a thousand dollars. Fifty dollars or fifty thousand would be easier. I'll have to ask a friend how to spend it.

TOLMAN Did you listen carefully when I was reading the will? After spending the thousand dollars, you must tell me, in writing, how you spent it. Will you do that?

BOBBY Yes, I'll do it, Mr Tolman.

TOLMAN (*Giving Bobby a packet*) Then here's the money. One thousand dollars.

SCENE 2

A lot or very little

At a restaurant. Bryson is sitting at a table, drinking coffee and reading a book. Bobby sits down opposite him.

BOBBY Hello there, Bryson! Put down your book, I've got a funny story to tell you!

BRYSON Tell it to somebody at one of the other tables. You know I don't like your stories.

BOBBY It's a good story. I've just come from my uncle Septimus's lawyers. He's died and left me one thousand dollars! What can I do with it?

BRYSON I thought old man Gillian had half a million.