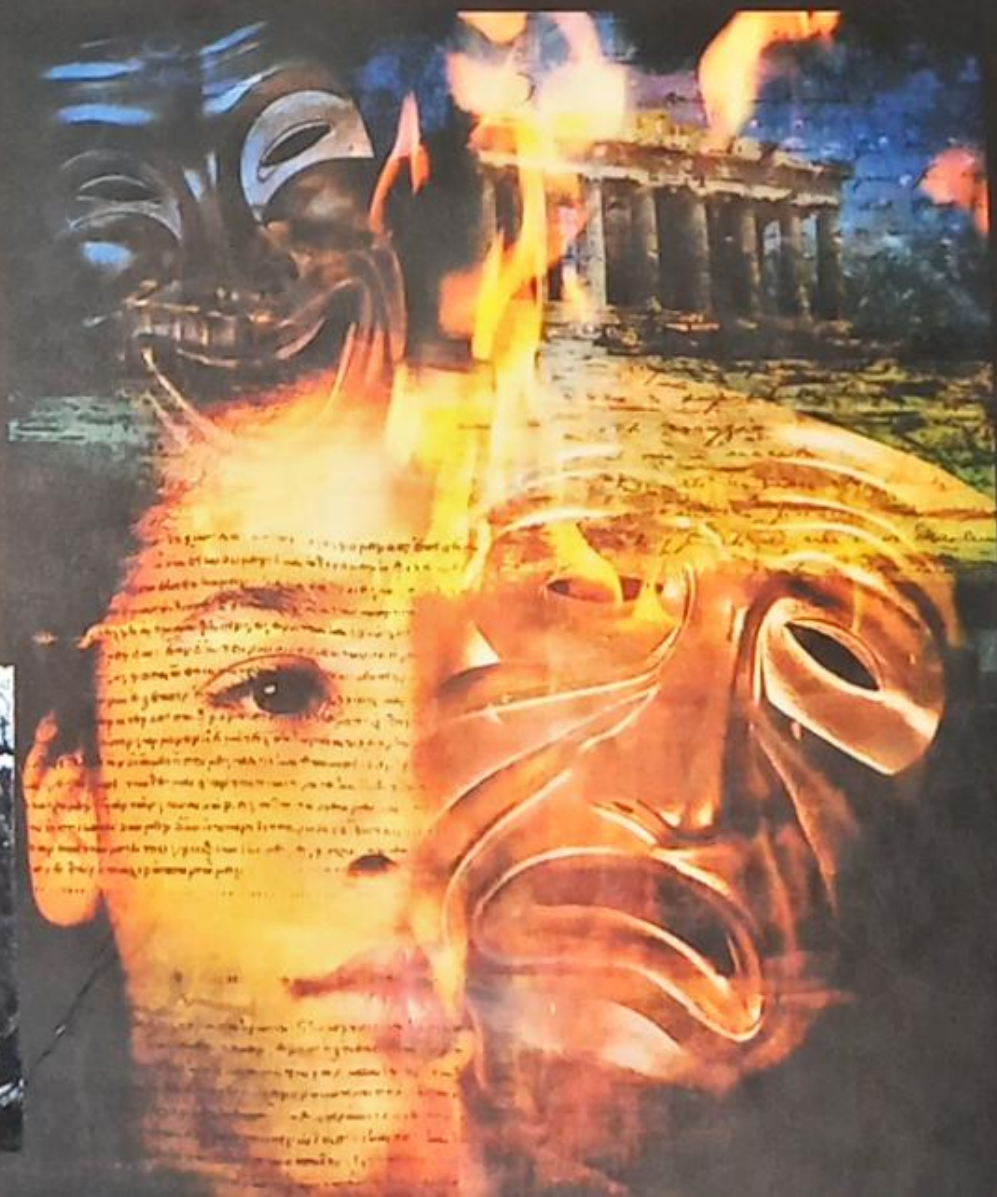


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# THE CROWN OF VIOLET

GEOFFREY TREASE



## THE CROWN OF VIOLET

Alexis, son of Leon, knows it is a wonderful time to be an Athenian. It is the fifth century BC, and Athens is the finest city-state in Greece, famous for its democracy, its Theatre Festival, and its beautiful Acropolis hill – the city's crown of violet.

It's a wonderful time for a boy, of course, but not so much fun for a girl. Athenian women must stay at home, must not talk to men, must not have intelligent conversations about politics or plays. So when Alexis makes friends with Corinna, a girl *and* a foreigner, they have to meet in a secret cave in the hills. There, Alexis writes a play, a comedy called *The Gadfly*, and he and Corinna plan how to enter it for the next year's Theatre Festival.

Then they learn that Athens is in danger, from men both inside and outside the city, who are planning a revolution to bring the famous Athenian democracy to an end . . .





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*Thriller & Adventure*

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## The Crown of Violet

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Edited by  
John Everett

Illustrated by  
Gay Ladloworthy



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Great Athens, shining town  
Of song, with violet crown . . .

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GEOFFREY TREASE

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# The Crown of Violet

*Retold by*  
John Escott

*Illustrated by*  
Gay Galsworthy



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## A VISIT TO THE THEATRE

'No school today! Wonderful! Wonderful!'

Alexis woke up suddenly, to find his noisy young brother shouting in his ear.

'Do you realize what day it is?' asked Theo.

Alexis sat up quickly. 'Oh! The Theatre Festival!'

He jumped up and looked out of the window. The sky over Athens had turned from dark blue to grey, and people all over the city were waking up.

Soon all the family were dressed in their best clothes



*Alexis looked out of the window.*



and ready to leave. Alexis, in a new white tunic, went in front with his father, Leon, and his brother. Behind them came his mother and Nico, his older sister. Both wore veils over their faces – on Father's orders. He thought that a woman's place was in the home and did not really like them going out into the city.

As they walked through the narrow streets of the city in the early golden sunlight, Alexis thought how lovely Athens looked. Hundreds of people were already going into the theatre – Athenians, foreigners from the western islands, Cretans, Egyptians . . . People from every country came to Athens for the Theatre Festival. 'And why not?' Alexis thought. 'Athens is the finest city-state in Greece.'

Inside the theatre Alexis' family joined the crowd climbing up the terraces to find seats.

'These will be fine,' said Father. They sat down and were getting comfortable when a tall young man came up to them. He had long hair and wore a bright red cloak, high boots, and gold rings.

'This is *my* seat,' he said. 'You'll have to move.'

Father looked at him coldly. 'I suppose from the way you speak that you are from Athens, although your hair is as long as a Spartan's. But if you are an Athenian, you should know that these seats are for anyone to sit in.'

'I was here first! I only went to speak to someone for a moment. Are you going to move or not?'

'I am not.' Father looked round. 'There is a place for you a little way behind us.'