



Modern Drama

Prof. Abdul-Settar Mal-Allah Channel



Alternative Resources



Arms and the Man By

George Bernard Shaw

WAR BACKGROUND

Here is where your
presentation begins





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-Arms and the Man:

The Characters of the Play

1-Raina Petkoff The romantic idealist of twenty-three who views war in terms of noble and heroic deeds.

2-Captain Bluntschli A professional soldier from Switzerland who is serving in the Serbian army. He is thirty-four years old, and he is totally realistic about the stupidity of war.





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The Characters of the Play (cont.)

- ✓ 3. **Louka** The Petkoffs' female servant; she is young and physically attractive, and she uses her appearance for ambitious preferment.
- ✓ 4. **Catherine Petkoff** Raina's mother; she looks like and acts like a peasant, but she wears fashionable dressing gowns and tea gowns all the time in an effort to appear to be a Viennese lady.
- ✓ 5. **Nicola** A realistic, middle-aged servant who is very practical.
- ✓ 6. **Major Petkoff** The inept, fifty-year-old father of Raina; he is wealthy by Bulgarian standards, but he is also unread, uncouth, and incompetent.





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The Castle and
the Farm, the
Mountains &
The Cold, the
Clear Sky &
Winter



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The Summary of the Play - Act One – Section I

The play begins in Raina's bedroom, 1895. Raina's mother, Catherine, tells Raina that her fiancée, Sergius (whose photograph is on ostentatious display in the room), was very heroic in a battle of the Serbo-Bulgarian War that day. He led the cavalry in a charge. Raina is happy because she had doubts about Sergius's bravery. Then, the servant Louka comes in and says they must close the shutters because there is gunfire in the streets



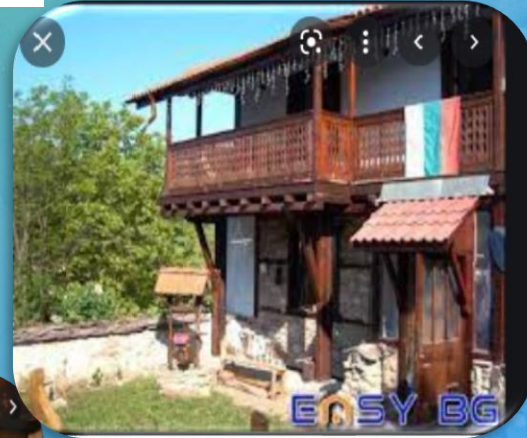
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The Summary of the Play - Act One – Section I (Cont.,)

✓ A moment later, a man breaks into the room. He is a Serbian soldier trying to avoid capture and death. Raina chides him for being fearful, and he says all soldiers are. A Bulgarian officer comes in, looking for the soldier, whom someone saw climbing up Raina's balcony. Raina hides the man and lies about him being there. The officer chalks it up to people's imaginations running away with them.





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The Summary of the Play - Act One – Section 2

✓ After the officer leaves, Raina notices that the man's gun was on the ottoman the whole time. He tells her it doesn't matter, as it wasn't loaded. He has no ammunition because he's been carrying chocolate instead, to have something to eat. Raina is shocked but offers him some chocolate she has, as he is hungry. They get to talking about that day's battle. The man says he was certainly fearful, as every soldier is once he's been in battle for three days.

