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True Anecdote Max Jacob

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Max Jacob

From *Le cornet à dés*

TRUE ANECDOTE

The success of Miss Ratkine in the Franklin Theater of Saint-Petersburg was interrupted by screams; the unfortunate vocalist had fallen into the orchestra pit and had broken her arm. As a doctor, I had the fainting beauty transported out of there to her dressing-room. The director loved her, I noticed it: he kept hanging around her dressing room not daring to knock or come in. At last he knocked! no answer. "Her little French lover is surely near her," he told me. Lover indeed! The patient was in the grasp of the old stage manager who now managed to frantically kiss Miss Ratkine's free hand without risking to be slapped.

Translated from the French by **James Vladimir Gill**