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Pierre de Beaumarchais, John Wood
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*The Barber of Seville and
The Marriage of Figaro*

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Pierre de Beaumarchais, John Wood : The Barber of Seville and the Marriage of Figaro (Classics S) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Barber of Seville and the Marriage of Figaro (Classics S):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By George Trapp What I expected. 0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. and I don't hate it. So there's that
By Kimberley I had to read this for class, and I don't hate it.
So there's that.
5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Opera student's perspective
By C. M. Patterson We are doing this in opera form this Spring, and it was very helpful to read the play, especially the Barber, to get the background necessary for a complete performance. The notes and the biography also added to my understanding of the play.

The sparkling plays about the scoundrelly valet Figaro, used as the basis of operas by Mozart and Rossini A highly engaging comedy of intrigue, *The Barber of Seville* portrays the resourceful Figaro foiling a jealous old man's attempts to keep his beautiful ward from her lover. And *The Marriage of Figaro* condemned by Louis XVI for its daring satire of nobility and privileged depicts a master and servant set in opposition by their desire for the same woman. With characteristic lightness of touch, Beaumarchais a French courtier, secret agent, libertine, and adventurer created an audacious farce of disguise and mistaken identity that balances wit, frivolity and seriousness in equal measure. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

About the Author Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais was born in Paris in 1732. The son of a clockmaker, he was early appointed horologist to the French court. A rich marriage established his fortunes and thereafter he pursued an adventurous career as financial speculator, confidential agent, gun-runner and, ultimately, man of letters. His literary career began inauspiciously with *Eugenie* (1767), an unsuccessful bourgeois drama in the manner of Diderot, but his numerous lawsuits soon gave him the ammunition for a very successful series of *Mmoires*, in which he attacked his adversaries, establishing his reputation. His most famous works today, however, are the comedies *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, which formed the basis of the operas by Rossini and Mozart. Beaumarchais died in 1799. John Wood was born in 1900 and went to Manchester University. After some years in teaching and adult education he spent his working life in educational administration. Concern with the relevance of the arts in education, combined with personal predilection, led to involvement with the theatre and with the work of Moliere in particular, as producer and translator. He also translated *The Misanthrope and Other Plays* and *The Miser and Other Plays* for Penguin Classics.