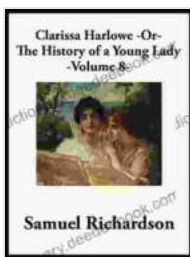


Clarissa Harlowe, or The History of a Young Lady: A Timeless Tale of Love, Loss, and the Perils of Social Norms

Published in 1748, *Clarissa Harlowe, or The History of a Young Lady* is a seminal work of English literature that has captivated readers for centuries. Written by Samuel Richardson, the novel is a complex and deeply moving exploration of themes such as love, loss, and the dangers of societal expectations.



Clarissa Harlowe -or- The History of a Young Lady: Volume 8 by Samuel Richardson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1601 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 100 pages



The Story of Clarissa Harlowe

The novel tells the story of Clarissa Harlowe, a young woman of impeccable virtue and beauty. Clarissa is the daughter of a wealthy and influential family, and she is expected to marry a man of equal social standing. However, Clarissa falls in love with Robert Lovelace, a charming but reckless libertine. Lovelace is determined to seduce Clarissa, and he

eventually succeeds in doing so. However, their relationship is doomed from the start, as Lovelace is incapable of true love and respect.

Clarissa's family is furious when they learn of her relationship with Lovelace. They disown her and force her to live in a brothel. Lovelace continues to pursue Clarissa, and he eventually rapes her. Clarissa is devastated by Lovelace's betrayal, and she slowly begins to lose her mind. She eventually dies of a broken heart.

A Complex and Tragic Heroine

Clarissa Harlowe is a complex and tragic heroine. She is a woman of great virtue and strength, but she is also deeply flawed. Clarissa is too trusting of others, and she is too quick to forgive those who have wronged her. Her tragic fate is a reminder of the dangers of being too trusting and of the importance of setting boundaries.

A Powerful Indictment of Societal Norms

In addition to being a moving love story, *Clarissa Harlowe* is also a powerful indictment of societal norms. The novel exposes the hypocrisy of a society that values chastity and obedience above all else. Clarissa is punished for her love of Lovelace, even though she is the one who is wronged. Her story is a reminder of the importance of challenging unjust social norms and of fighting for what we believe in.

A Timeless Classic

Clarissa Harlowe is a timeless classic that continues to resonate with readers today. The novel's themes of love, loss, and social injustice are still relevant in the 21st century. Clarissa Harlowe is a complex and

unforgettable heroine, and her story is a powerful reminder of the dangers of conforming to societal expectations.

Further Reading

- Clarissa Harlowe, or The History of a Young Lady by Samuel Richardson
- The original manuscript of Clarissa Harlowe
- Clarissa Harlowe: An Overview by the Victorian Web
- Clarissa Harlowe and the Novel of Sentiment by Margaret Anne Doody



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