

**WEIR OF HERMISTON:
AN UNFINISHED
ROMANCE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649732050

Weir of Hermiston: An Unfinished Romance by Robert Louis Stevenson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

**WEIR OF HERMISTON:
AN UNFINISHED
ROMANCE**

WEIR OF HERMISTON

AN UNFINISHED ROMANCE

BY

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



NEW YORK

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1907



953099A

2
S847w

Copyright 1896 by
STONE & KIMBALL
Copyright 1896 by
CHARLES SCHEPPE'S SONS

2181

XAOY WCB
OUBOY
YKASBU

To
MY WIFE

*I saw rain falling and the rainbow drawn
On Lammermuir. Harkening I heard again
In my precipitous city beaten bells
Winnow the keen sea wind. And here afar,
Intent on my own race and place, I wrote.*

*Take thou the writing: thine it is. For who
Burnished the sword, blew on the drowsy coal,
Held still the target higher, chary of praise
And prodigal of counsel — who but thou?
So now, in the end, if this the least be good,
If any deed be done, if any fire
Burn in the imperfect page, the praise be thine.*

828X88

CONTENTS

	PAGE
DEDICATION	iii
INTRODUCTORY	3
CHAP.	
I. LIFE AND DEATH OF MRS. WEIR	5
II. FATHER AND SON	33
III. IN THE MATTER OF THE HANGING OF DUNCAN JOFF	45
IV. OPINION OF THE BENCH	74
V. WINTER ON THE MOORS :	
1. AT HERMISTON	92
2. KIRSTIE	99
3. A BORDER FAMILY	105
VI. A LEAF FROM CHRISTINA'S PSALM-BOOK	137
VII. ENTER MEPHISTOPHELES	185
VIII. A NOCTURNAL VINT	217
IX. AT THE WEAVER'S STONE	232
EDITORIAL NOTE	243
GLOSSARY OF SCOTTISH WORDS	261

WEIR OF HERMISTON

Introductory

In the wild end of a moorland parish, far out of the sight of any house, there stands a cairn among the heather, and a little by east of it, in the going down of the braeside, a monument with some verses half defaced. It was here that Claverhouse shot with his own hand the Praying Weaver of Balweary, and the chisel of Old Mortality has clinked on that lonely gravestone. Public and domestic history have thus marked with a bloody finger this hollow among the hills; and since the Cameronian gave his life there, two hundred years ago, in a glorious folly, and without comprehension or regret, the silence of the moss has been broken once again by the report of firearms and the cry of the dying.

The Deil's Hags was the old name. But the place is now called Francie's Cairn. For a while it was told that Francie walked. Aggie Hogg met him in the gloaming by the

cairnside, and he spoke to her, with chattering teeth, so that his words were lost. He pursued Rob Todd (if anyone could have believed Robbie) for the space of half a mile with pitiful entreaties. But the age is one of incredulity; these superstitious decorations speedily fell off; and the facts of the story itself, like the bones of a giant buried there and half dug up, survived, naked and imperfect, in the memory of the scattered neighbours. To this day, of winter nights, when the sleet is on the window and the cattle are quiet in the byre, there will be told again, amid the silence of the young and the additions and corrections of the old, the tale of the Justice-Clerk and of his son, young Hermiton, that vanished from men's knowledge; of the two Kirsties and the Four Black Brothers of the Cauldstaneslap; and of Frank Innes, "the young fool advocate," that came into these moorland parts to find his destiny.