

# **A WINDOW IN THRUMS**

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A Window in Thrums by J. M. Barrie

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**J. M. BARRIE**

**A WINDOW  
IN THRUMS**





THE DOOR TO HENDRY'S COT.



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# WINDOW IN THRUMS

BY

J. M. BARRIE

AUTHOR OF

"WHEN A MAN'S SINGLE," "LITTLE MINISTER," ETC.

With Illustrations by

CLIFTON JOHNSON

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## INTRODUCTION.

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"THRUMS" is the name which Mr. Barrie has given to the town of Kirriemuir in Forfarshire, situated sixty-two miles north of Edinburgh. To American eyes the surrounding country looks rather bare and windswept, yet it is a land of pleasant sweeping hills and valleys with the outlying ridges of the Grampians looming up along the northern horizon and stretching away to the west.

In a hollow by a little stream that winds through the village are two great stone mills, which furnish employment for most of the inhabitants of the town. The weaving now monopolized by the mills was once done in the homes, and one may still find houses whence the clack of the loom comes to the ears of the passer-by. Fifty years ago the rattle of the hand-loom would have been heard in every cottage.



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Most of the village houses are built of red sandstone, for the most part weather-darkened and battered, but some of the older dwellings are white-washed. From the little square which is the town centre, the houses wind away along the valleys and up the hillsides in the most charming fashion. I suppose this is because the village site itself is so uncertain and hammocky. Whichever way you take, you either go up-hill or down-hill, and the hill is likely to be steep. The streets are crooked with unexpected turns and little lanes, that have an odd way of jerking around corners and dodging under houses.

By taking the road southward from the town square, ascending a short hill and crossing a heavy arched stone bridge, you at once commence to climb the stiff ascent of Mr. Barrie's famous "brae." Coming to the elbow of the brae, you will see before you Hendry's cot at the top of the hill. It is much like Mr. Barrie's description,— a one-story house with white-washed walls and a tiny window in the gable, that you feel sure must be Jess's window the moment it comes into view. This window looks easterly down the brae and over the town, and it is remarkable how as one

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wanders about the village and over the surrounding hillslopes, the cot at the top of the brae comes into view, and how the little window preternaturally follows your movements like an ever-watchful eye.



A PASSER ON THE BRAE.

In front of the cottage is a garden which is separated from the street by a rough stone wall. The cottage roof in Mr. Barrie's description, is of thatch with ropes flung over it to protect it from the wind, but at present the roof is rudely slated. Thatch is out of date in Kirriemuir and is to be

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found only on a single rusty row of cottages on a neighbouring hill. These have strips of boards fastened on the thatch to prevent its being torn off in a gale, but in farm-yards the stacks of hay and grain have their round caps of thatch netted over with ropes.



THE LITTLE WINDOW.

Since "A Window in Thrums" became famous, Kirriemuir and Hendry's cot have been scenes of great interest. Many people visit the town and climb the brae just to see this humble little cottage. The present tenants of the cottage are plainly of a

thrifty turn of mind, for a black sign-board hanging on the outside bears the inscription "THE WINDOW IN THRUMS," and announces that "souvenirs and lemonade are for sale within." There is not much to be seen inside the house, which consists of two small rooms with a small passageway between. On the right hand is the kitchen with its fire-place, a bed, a table, and a