

**YOUNG HEARTS:  
A NOVEL, VOL. I**

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Young Hearts: A Novel, Vol. I by Jane Porter

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**JANE PORTER**

**YOUNG HEARTS:  
A NOVEL, VOL. I**



**YOUNG HEARTS**

A NOVEL

BY A RECLUSE.

WITH A PREFACE

By MISS JANE PORTER

IN THREE VOLUMES

Thy blood and virtue contend for empire in thee!  
Shakspeare.

VOL. I.

LONDON

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

1834.

22496.65

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Oct 21, 1930  
(3 vols)

LONDON:

E. LOWE, FLATHOUSE YARD, BLACKFRIARS.

TO  
LADY HAMLYN WILLIAMS,  
THE BRIGHTENER OF JOY,  
THE SOOTHER OF SORROW, AND THE FRIEND OF  
THE DISTRESSED;  
TO HER  
WHO IN THE WORLD, IS NOT OF THIS WORLD;  
TO THE  
WOMAN OF TASTE, AND THE CHRISTIAN MATRON;  
THIS WORK  
IS  
DEDICATED,  
BY THE RESPECT, AND STILL DEEPER SENTIMENT  
OF  
THE AUTHOR.

Nov. 1834.

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## PREFACE

BY

MISS JANE PORTER.

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THIS simple tale of *Young Hearts*, is written by one well acquainted with the generous throbs of the inexperienced age she treats of. And she tells the youthful history of such, not, indeed, as they are often made to beat in the gay, luxurious, and self-aggrandizing, self-

absorbing world of a metropolis; but, according to the natural and ingenuous, but too often dangerously romantic, sensibilities of a secluded country life.

The generous and tender affections of young hearts, so situated, have therefore their shadow in these faithful pages; shewing the extravagances to which both impulses may lead, when excited into passions, and permitted to reach the various points of perilous excess.

“ Young brother! young sister!” the author, in every page addresses, in the spirit of her motto: “ *Beware! your blood and virtue contend for empire in*

*ye!*" As ye give the victory, your happiness and honour, or your inward wretchedness and self-abasement, must be the result."

But it was not to write a tale of animated amusement, a story of gentle admonition, which were her only motives when taking up the pen in her little boudoir of deep retirement. It was to cheer a drooping heart that sat near her; it was to disperse the tears of affliction from beloved eyes looking on her; it was to say to that disconsolate mourner,—

"Intreat me not to leave thee! whi-