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BOOKS.
LALAGE'S LOVERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649624263

The Pocket Books. Lalage's Lovers by G. A. Birmingham

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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NEW YORK

THE POCKET BOOKS

LALAGE'S LOVERS

Announced, September 1, 1915
By G. A. BIRMINGHAM

Author of
"Spanish Gold," "The Simpkins Plot," etc.

GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY
NEW YORK

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LALAGE'S LOVERS

CHAPTER I

I HAD, I suppose, some reason for calling on Canon Beresford, but I have totally forgotten what it was. In all probability my mother sent me to discuss some matter connected with the management of the parish or the maintenance of the fabric of the church. I was then, and still am, a church warden. The office is hereditary in my family. My son — Miss Pettigrew recommended my having several sons — will hold it when I am gone. My mother has always kept me up to the mark in the performance of my duties. Without her at my elbow I should, I am afraid, be inclined to neglect them. I am bored, not interested as a churchwarden should be, when the wall of the graveyard crumbles unexpectedly. I fail to find either pleasure or excitement in appointing a new sexton. Canon Beresford, our rector, is no more enthusiastic about such things than I am. He and I are very good friends, but when he suspects me of paying him a business visit he goes out to fish. There are, I believe, trout in the stream which flows at the bottom of the glebe land, but I never heard of Canon Beresford catching any of them.

It must have been business of some sort which took