

THE EDUCATION OF ERIC LANE

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The education of Eric Lane by Stephen McKenna

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STEPHEN MCKENNA

**THE EDUCATION
OF ERIC LANE**

THE SENSATIONALISTS: II
THE EDUCATION OF
ERIC LANE

STEPHEN McKENNA

By STEPHEN McKENNA

THE SENSATIONALISTS

PART ONE: LADY LILITH

PART TWO: THE EDUCATION
OF ERIC LANE

PART THREE: *In preparation*

SONIA MARRIED

SONIA

MIDAS AND SON

NINETY-SIX HOURS' LEAVE

THE SIXTH SENSE

SHEILA INTERVENES

NEW YORK
GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

THE EDUCATION OF ERIC LANE

BY

STEPHEN MCKENNA

AUTHOR OF "LADY LILITH," "SONIA MARRIED,"
"MIDAS AND SON," "SONIA," "NINETY-
SIX HOURS' LEAVE," ETC.



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"Because lust was not good enough, the Celt
invented romance."

—SHANE LESLIE: *The End of a Chapter.*

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CHAPTER ONE

AN EXPERIMENT IN EMOTION

"... A genial . . . bachelor, whom the outside world called selfish because it derived no particular benefit from him. . . ."
OSCAR WILDE: "THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY."

I

ERIC LANE, visible only from ear to chin above the water-line, peered through the steam of the bathroom at a travelling-clock on his dressing-table. The bath would have been improved by another half handful of verbena salts; but, even lacking this, the water was still too hot to be lightly dismissed with an aggrieved gurgle down the waste-pipe. It was an added self-indulgence to know that, if he lay gently boiling himself for more than another minute, he would be late for dinner with Lady Poynter; but, if any one had to suffer, let it be Lady Poynter. It was not his fault that the rehearsal of "The Bomb-Shell" had dragged on until after seven; something had to be sacrificed—the letters which his secretary had left for him to sign, or the hot bath, or the cigarette and glass of sherry as he dressed, or (in the last resort and quite obviously) Lady Poynter. He had already foregone a cocktail, which would have made him two minutes later.