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- AND SOME OTHERS**

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BELINDA—AND SOME OTHERS

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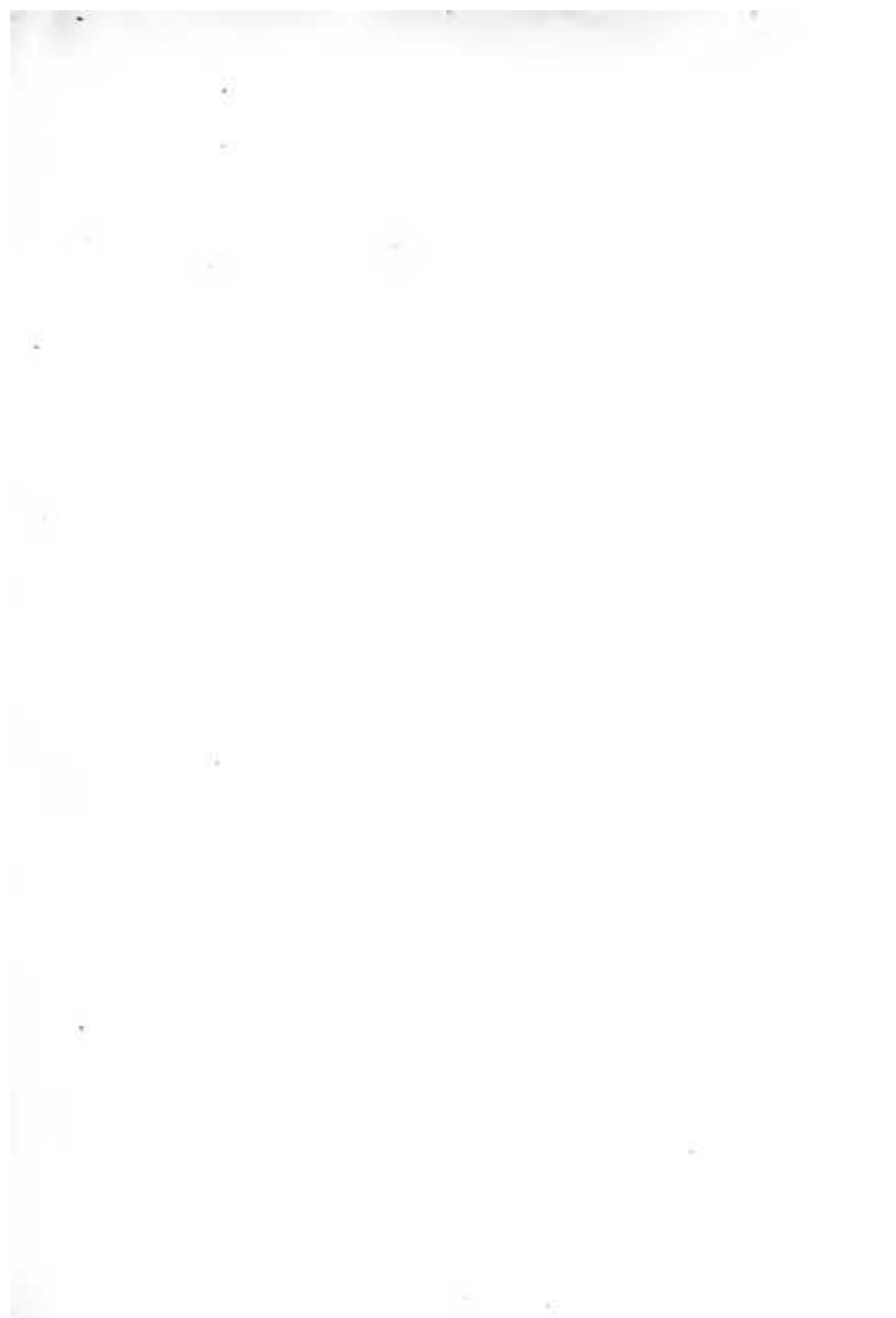
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BELINDA—AND SOME OTHERS.

CHAPTER I.

HALF-A-DOZEN.

WE were half-a-dozen, four girls and two boys. Our parents had a fancy for names terminating in *a*, but after christening me Maria, their memory proved unequal to the strain of four daughters, and they had recourse to novels for suggestions. Hence a Belinda, an Olivia, and a Pamela. The boys answered to the more every-day titles of William and Jack.

About our ages there were two points to remember. First, that Pamela was barely seventeen, and the youngest; secondly, that we were said to be the only annuals on record ever known to become perennials.