

**ELSIE LINDTNER, A  
SEQUEL TO "THE  
DANGEROUS AGE"**

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Elsie Lindtner, a Sequel To "The Dangerous Age" by Karin Michaëlis Stangeland & Beatrice Marshall

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**KARIN MICHAËLIS STANGELAND & BEATRICE MARSHALL**

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ELSIE LINDTNER

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*BY THE SAME AUTHOR*  
**THE DANGEROUS AGE**  
*Letters and Fragments from  
a Woman's Diary*

# ELSIE LINDTNER

A Sequel to "The Dangerous Age"

BY

KARIN MICHAËLIS  
STANGELAND

*AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION*

BY

BEATRICE MARSHALL

NEW YORK

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MCMXII

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## PREFACE

**R**EADERS and admirers of "The Dangerous Age"—and their name is legion—will find themselves perfectly at home in the following story. To them, Elsie Lindtner's rambling aphorisms, her Bashkirtseffian revelations of soul, the remarkably frank letters which she delights to write to her friends, among whom she numbers her divorced husband; above all, her rather preposterous obsession with regard to the dangers of middle age, will be familiar as a twice-told tale.

Doubtless many will be charmed to meet Elsie Lindtner again, when she has passed through the dreaded furnace of her "forties," and is still keeping the spark of inextinguishable youthfulness alive within her, by gam-

## PREFACE

bling at Monte Carlo, travelling in Greece with Jeanne of the flaming hair, fencing in London, riding in New York, and finally finding happiness and salvation in the adoption of a small offscouring of the streets.

But for those who may have missed reading the little masterpiece of modern femininity which only a short time ago set a whole continent by the ears, some sort of key is, possibly, necessary to the enjoyment of "Elsie Lindtner."

In "The Dangerous Age" Elsie Lindtner writes an autobiographical letter to Joergen Malthe, the rising young architect, who has been her ardent admirer. She tells him now that her mother died when she was born, and her father was bankrupt, and lived disgraced in retirement, while she was left to the care of a servant girl.

From her she learnt that lack of money was the cause of their sordid life, and from that moment she worshipped money.

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"I sometimes buried a coin that had been given me," she writes, "as a dog buries a bone."

When she went to school little Elsbeth Bugge was soon informed that she was "the prettiest girl in the school"; that a pretty face was worth a fortune.

"From that moment I entered upon the accursed cult of my person which absorbed the rest of my childhood and all my first youth. . . . I avoided the sun lest I should get freckles; I collected rain water for washing; I slept with gloves, and though I adored sweets, I refrained from eating them on account of my teeth. I spent hours brushing my hair."

One day when she came home she found the only big mirror in the house had been transferred from her father's room and hung in her own.

"I made myself quite ill with excitement, and the maid had to put me to bed. But