

**THE LADY OF THE
FOREST. A
STORY FOR GIRLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649186501

The lady of the forest. A story for girls by L. T. Meade

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

L. T. MEADE

**THE LADY OF THE
FOREST. A
STORY FOR GIRLS**



THE LADY OF THE FOREST

A Story for Girls.

BY
L. T. MEADE

AUTHOR OF "THE LITTLE PRINCESS OF TOWER HILL," "A
SWEET GIRL GRADUATE," "THE PALACE BEAUTIFUL,"
"POLLY, A NEW-FASHIONED GIRL," "A WORLD
OF GIRLS," ETC., ETC.

"Tyde what may betyde,
Lovel shall dwell at Avonsyde.

NEW YORK
HURST & COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

L. T. MEADE SERIES

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

By MRS. L. T. MEADE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bunch of Cherries, A. | Merry Girls of England. |
| Daddy's Girl. | Miss Nonentity. |
| Dr. Rumsey's Patient. | Palace Beautian'. |
| Francis Kane's Fortune. | Polly, a New-Fashioned Girl. |
| Gay Charmer, A. | Rebels of the School. |
| Girl in Ten Thousand, A. | Sweet Girl Graduate, A. |
| Girls of St. Wodes, The. | Their Little Mother. |
| Girl of the People, A. | Time of Roses, The. |
| Girls of the True Blue. | Very Naughty Girl, A. |
| Heart of Gold, The. | Wild Kitty. |
| Honorable Miss, The. | World of Girls. |
| How It All Came About. | Young Mutineers, The |
| Little Princess of Tower Hill. | |

Price, postpaid, 50c. each, or any three books for \$1.25

HURST & COMPANY
PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK

SRLD
URU

MC: 46 42102

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Fair Little Maids.....	5
II. Making Terms.....	22
III. Preparing for the Heir.....	32
IV. A Spartan Boy.....	38
V. In the Forest.....	49
VI. The Tower Bedroom.....	65
VII. "Betyde What May".....	74
VIII. The Sacred Cupboard.....	89
IX. A Trysting-Place.....	96
X. Proofs.....	102
XI. The Lady Who Came With a Gift.....	108
XII. Lost in the New Forest.....	120
XIII. One More Secret.....	126
XIV. The Australians.....	138
XV. Was He Acting?.....	152
XVI. Lost.....	168
XVII. Looking for the Tankard.....	177
XVIII. The Merma-dukes.....	182
XIX. A Tender Heart.....	195
XX. Punished.....	204

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXI. What the Heir Ought to Be.....	217
XXII. Right is Right.....	224
XXIII. Forest Life.....	236
XXIV. A Great Alarm.....	243
XXV. A Dream with a Meaning.....	255
XXVI. Love Versus Gold.....	260
XXVII. Two Mothers.....	270
XXVIII. The Lady Who Came With a Gift.....	279

THE LADY OF THE FOREST.

“Tyde what may be betyde”
Lovel shall dwell at Avonsyde.”

CHAPTER I.

FAIR LITTLE MAIDS.

“AND then,” said Rachel, throwing up her hands and raising her eyebrows—“and then, when they got into the heart of the forest itself, just where the shade was greenest and the trees thickest, they saw the lady coming to meet them. She, too, was all in green, and she came on and on, and——”

“Hush, Rachel!” exclaimed Kitty; “here comes Aunt Grizel.”

The girls, aged respectively twelve and nine, were seated, one on a rustic stile, the other on the grass at her feet; a background of splendid forest trees threw their slight and childish figures into strong relief. Rachel’s hat was tossed on the ground and Kitty’s parasol lay unopened by her side. The sun was sending slanting rays through the trees, and some of these rays fell on Kitty’s bright hair and lit up Rachel’s dark little gypsy face.

"Aunt Grizel is coming," said Kitty, and immediately she put on a proper and demure expression. Rachel, drawn up short in the midst of a very exciting narrative, looked slightly defiant and began to whistle in a boyish manner.

Aunt Griselda was seen approaching down a long straight avenue overshadowed by forest trees of beech and oak; she held her parasol well up, and her face was further protected from any passing gleams of sunlight by a large poke-bonnet. She was a slender old lady, with a graceful and dignified appearance. Aunt Griselda would have compelled respect from any one, and as she approached the two girls they both started to their feet and ran to meet her.

"Your music-master has been waiting for you for half an hour, Rachel. Kitty, I am going into the forest; you can come with me if you choose."

Rachel did not attempt to offer any excuse for being late; with an expressive glance at Kitty she walked off soberly to the house, and the younger girl, picking up her hat, followed Aunt Griselda, sighing slightly as she did so.

Kitty was an affectionate child, the kind of child who likes everybody, and she would have tolerated Aunt Griselda—who was not particularly affectionate nor particularly sympathetic—if she had not disturbed her just at the moment when she was listening with breathless interest to a wonderful romance.

Kitty adored fairy tales, and Rachel had a