

**THE YOUNG  
VISITERS: OR, MR.  
SALTEENA'S PLAN**

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The Young Visitors: or, Mr. Salteena's Plan by Daisy Ashford

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**DAISY ASHFORD**

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THE AUTHOR

**THE  
YOUNG VISITERS;  
OR, MR. SALTEENA'S PLAN**

BY  
**DAISY ASHFORD**

WITH A PREFACE BY  
**J. M. BARRIE**



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## PREFACE

THE "owner of the copyright" guarantees that "The Young Visitors" is the unaided effort in fiction of an authoress of nine years. "Effort," however, is an absurd word to use, as you may see by studying the triumphant countenance of the child herself, which is here reproduced as frontispiece to her sublime work. This is no portrait of a writer who had to burn the oil at midnight (indeed there is documentary evidence that she was hauled off to bed every evening at six) : it has an air of careless power ; there is a complacency about it that by the severe might perhaps be called smugness. It needed no effort for that face to knock off a masterpiece. It probably represents precisely how she looked when she finished a chapter. When she was actually at work I think the ex-

## PREFACE

pression was more solemn, with the tongue firmly clenched between the teeth; an unholy rapture showing as she drew near her love chapter. Fellow-craftsmen will see that she is looking forward to this chapter all the time.

The manuscript is in pencil in a stout little note book (twopence), and there it has lain for years, for though the authoress was nine when she wrote it she is now a grown woman. It has lain, in lavender as it were, in the dumpy note book, waiting for a publisher to ride that way and rescue it; and here he is at last, not a bit afraid that to this age it may appear "Victorian." Indeed if its pictures of High Life are accurate (as we cannot doubt, the authoress seems always so sure of her facts) they had a way of going on in those times which is really surprising. Even the grand historical figures were free and easy, such as King Edward, of whom we have perhaps the most human picture ever penned, as he appears at a levée "rather sumshiously," in a "small