

YOUTH IN HELL

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Youth in hell by Albert Bein

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ALBERT BEIN

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BOOKS BY ALBERT BEIN

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To the admirable woman who befriended me while
I was in a Reform School, opened the gates for me,
and tried hard to guide my bewildered boyhood
into manhood.

Why do I relate these abominations? So that you may know, kind sirs, that it is not all past and done with! You have a liking for grim fantasies; you are delighted with horrible stories well told; the grotesquely terrible excites you pleasantly. But I know of genuine horrors, every day terrors, and I have an undeniable right to excite you unpleasantly, by telling you about them, in order that you may remember how we live, and under what circumstances. A low and unclean life it is, ours, and that is the truth.

I am a lover of humanity and I have no desire to make anyone miserable, but one must not be sentimental, nor hide the grim truth with the motley words of beautiful lies. Let us face life as it is! All that is good and human in our hearts and brains needs renewing.

GORKY

*Where truant 'prentices, yet young in sin,
Blush at the curious stranger peeping in.*

BURNS