

**FAIRSHIELS: MEMORIES
OF A
LAMMERMoor PARISH**

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Fairshiels: Memories of a Lammermoor Parish by T. Ratcliffe Barnett

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T. RATCLIFFE BARNETT

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PARISH

BY

T. RATCLIFFE BARNETT

EDINBURGH AND LONDON
OLIPHANT, ANDERSON & FERRIER

1906

**TO HER
WHOSE PRESENCE
MADE FAIRSHIELS HOME**

THE FOREWORD

The name of Fairshiels, like the castle in Spain, will be found on no map. But on the highest borderland of the Lothians, where the Lammermoors begin, those who are well read in the obscurities of geography will know the quiet hillside parish of Fala and Soutra, with its rural capital at Blackshiels. Here, in ancient days, the Black Friars from Soutra Monastery had their shieling—hence the name Blackshiels. The village, although but a clachan, is known by the two names of Fala and Blackshiels—and the fact that the one half containing the inn was called Blackshiels, while the other half containing the kirk was called Fala, shows how firmly the old villagers drew the line between the church and the world. But as there is no longer an inn at Blackshiels, where the postboys shout and the red-coated guards wind their horns, the distinction has lost its meaning. That these memories, therefore, of the happiest days, when *Laetus sorte mea* was engraven above the manse door, should lead to no misunderstanding, I have called the village of my heart—Fairshiels.

T. RATCLIFFE BARNETT.

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