

**THE NOVELS, TALES
AND SKETCHES; THE
LITTLE MINISTER, PART I**

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The novels, tales and sketches; The little minister, Part I by J. M. Barrie

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J. M. BARRIE

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AND SKETCHES; THE
LITTLE MINISTER, PART I**



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THE NOVELS, TALES
AND SKETCHES OF
J. M. BARRIE



THE LITTLE MINISTER

PART I

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J. M. Burrie

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INTRODUCTION

THE editor of *Good Words*, in which "The Little Minister" appeared, was dissatisfied with the size of the heroine's mouth and implored me to make it a little larger. Otherwise the book would always be a pain to him. So with charming good-nature I enlarged Babbie's mouth, and he was again the most genial man in Glasgow.

But no one could persuade me to add half an inch to the stature of the little minister. In real life small men have their affairs of the heart equally with their big brothers, they even bring them to a successful issue—wait at the church door and you will presently see a little bridegroom emerge with a tall bride—but in fiction these things are not so, you know when the short man is introduced that he is to be a mere foil to a six-footer, that he must love in vain, that at the most the lady will offer to be a sister to him. Gavin is not only the shortest hero in fiction: so far as my researches go, he is the only short hero; were all the heroes of the novels to meet on some vast plain you could pick him out at once, not because

INTRODUCTION

he was preaching to the others (though that is what he would be doing), but solely because of his lack of inches. "Who is the little man?" you would ask inquisitively, and if Mr. Dishart heard you, perhaps he would not wince, but I cannot guarantee this.

I am afraid I have already mentioned his only claim to distinction. He begins pretty well, I think, but there comes a time—I see it now, though I did not see it then—when Rob Dow might with advantage have left Babbie alone and turned his attention to the author.

CONTENTS

PART I

	PAGE
I THE LOVE-LIGHT	1
II RUNS ALONGSIDE THE MAKING OF A MINISTER	9
III THE NIGHT-WATCHERS	22
IV FIRST COMING OF THE EGYPTIAN WOMAN	40
V A WARLIKE CHAPTER, CULMINATING IN THE FLOUTING OF THE MIN- ISTER BY THE WOMAN	57
VI IN WHICH THE SOLDIERS MEET THE AMAZONS OF THRUMS	68
VII HAS THE FOLLY OF LOOKING INTO A WOMAN'S EYES BY WAY OF TEXT	84
VIII 3 A. M. MONSTROUS AUDACITY OF THE WOMAN	94
IX THE WOMAN CONSIDERED IN AB- SENCE—ADVENTURES OF A MILI- TARY CLOAK	108
X FIRST SERMON AGAINST WOMEN . . .	122
XI TELLS IN A WHISPER OF MAN'S FALL DURING THE CURLING SEASON . . .	137
XII TRAGEDY OF A MUD HOUSE	150
XIII SECOND COMING OF THE EGYPTIAN WOMAN	159
XIV THE MINISTER DANCES TO THE WOMAN'S PIPING	170
XV THE MINISTER BEWITCHED—SECOND SERMON AGAINST WOMEN	183

CONTENTS

	PAGE
XVI CONTINUED MISBEHAVIOUR OF THE EGYPTIAN WOMAN	195
XVII INTRUSION OF HAGGART INTO THESE PAGES AGAINST THE AUTHOR'S WISH	206
XVIII CADDAM—LOVE LEADING TO A RUP- TURE	220
XIX CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE FIRST SERMON IN APPROVAL OF WOMEN	231

