

WILD JUSTICE

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Wild Justice by Margaret L. Woods

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BY

MARGARET L. WOODS

AUTHOR OF 'A VILLAGE TRAGEDY' 'LYRICS AND BALLADS'
'THE VAGABONDS' ETC.

LONDON

SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE,

1896

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Lich

P R E F A C E

IN explanation of the circumstances of the following dramatic poem, it may be necessary to state that lighthouses could formerly be erected by private individuals, who were then empowered by Act of Parliament to raise dues on all ships passing them. That on the Skerries was in private hands so late as the year 1841.

The scene is laid on Ynys yr Unigdra off the Welsh coast, in the early years of this century. The island is in an estuary and is surrounded by quicksands, except on one side, where the channel of a river, deep but not wide, divides it from a small island of rock and firm sand. The two islands are connected by a wooden footbridge. Across the mouth of the river and the greater part of the estuary runs a bar of sand, dry at low tide and covered at high. The bar is separated from Ynys yr Unigdra by a belt of quicksand, but from the smaller island, where the sands are firm, it can be easily reached at low tide.

Ty Mawr is a grey, gaunt house, with straggling out-buildings. In front is a square garden with narrow paved walks, enclosed by a low stone wall ; behind, some rising ground, and a wood of stunted oaks. It is separated only by a bare field from the shore, and looks out to sea over the quicksand and the bar. To the right the bay ends in a steep headland with some isolated rocks jutting out beyond it, on the largest one of which (Craig y Gwr) stands a recently built lighthouse. To the left is a wider extent of estuary, and in the distance a rocky coast backed by mountains. There are a few cottages on the island, but they are all on the other side. The action takes place principally in two rooms at Ty Mawr, both on the first floor ; the great parlour and an inner room leading out of it. Both have windows towards the sea.

NOTE

I am indebted for the first lines of the Ballad in this play to the following two lines, quoted in *Wuthering Heights* :

*It was far in the night and the bairnies grae,
The mither beneath the mools heard that.*

PERSONAGES.

GRYFFITH GWYLLIM.

MRS. GWYLLIM, *his wife.*

OWAIN, *a cripple*

NELTO (ELLEN)

SHONNIN (JOHN)

A BABY

} *their children.*

[DAVID, LUCY, and other GWYLLIM children, who do not appear.]