

**LOVERS' SAINT  
RUTH'S: AND THREE  
OTHER TALES**

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Lovers' Saint Ruth's: And Three Other Tales by Louise Imogen Guiney

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**LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY**

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LOVERS' SAINT RUTH'S  
And Three Other Tales

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BY  
LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY



BOSTON  
COPELAND AND DAY  
MDCCCXCV

TO CLARENCE J. BLAKE AND FRANCES  
H. BLAKE, A BOOK FINISHED ON THEIR  
OWN WILD ACRES OF THE MAINE COAST.

October, 1894.



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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE contents of this book have, hitherto, never been printed nor published. One chapter among them, *The Provider*, is based very literally on a tragic thing which happened, some years ago, in Dublin, and which, figuring as a cable despatch of some ten lines in a Boston daily newspaper, fell under my eye, to be remembered, and afterwards cast into its present form. In the September (1895) number of *Harpers' Magazine*, little Father Time and his adopted brother, in *Hearts Insurgent*, end their innocent lives from Hughey's strange motive, though not in his manner. It is perhaps worth while to state that my story was finished and laid by, prior to the appearance of the novel in its serial form, lest I should seem fain to melt my waxen wings in the



fire of the Wessex sun. It is possible that the actual incident had come to Mr. Hardy's notice also, and with a keen and pitiful interest for so expert a student of human nature. A curious circumstance in his relation of it is that the elder child, in order that there may be more room in a hard world for the persons he loves, disposes not only of himself, but presumably of the younger child as well; and in the original version of my story Hughey jumped into the river with his sister Nora in his arms. But a friend of mine, who read the manuscript in 1894, a writer of great insight whose opinion I value in the extreme, so wrought with me to change the cruel ending, that I did so then and there, after some argument, and sent the boy of "long, long thoughts" unaccompanied to his fate. The point of all this is, of course, that I now perceive my small invention had dared, unconsciously, to keep yet closer pace than would appear with Mr. Hardy's; for the suicide of real life was the suicide of one child alone.

The other three sketches here are more imaginative; and the first of them, which

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.      vii

bears the earliest date, was, from end to end, a dream, and is somewhat reluctantly included. They stand for apprentice-work in fiction, and are my only attempts of that kind.

L. L. G.

LONDON, September 6th, 1895.

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Blood pressure		Heart rate	ECG	Chest X-ray	Diagnosis
					Systolic	Diastolic				
1	John Doe	M	45	Teacher	120	80	72	Normal	Normal	None
2	Jane Smith	F	52	Nurse	130	85	78	Normal	Normal	None
3	Robert Johnson	M	60	Engineer	140	90	80	Normal	Normal	None
4	Emily White	F	38	Student	110	75	68	Normal	Normal	None
5	Michael Brown	M	55	Doctor	150	95	85	Normal	Normal	None
6	Sarah Green	F	42	Writer	125	82	75	Normal	Normal	None
7	David Black	M	65	Retired	160	100	90	Normal	Normal	None
8	Olivia Grey	F	30	Artist	115	78	70	Normal	Normal	None
9	William Gold	M	58	Business	145	92	82	Normal	Normal	None
10	Isabella Silver	F	48	Manager	135	88	80	Normal	Normal	None
11	James Copper	M	70	Farmer	170	110	100	Normal	Normal	None
12	Ava Zinc	F	35	Designer	120	80	72	Normal	Normal	None
13	Benjamin Lead	M	62	Scientist	155	98	88	Normal	Normal	None
14	Mia Tin	F	40	Analyst	130	85	78	Normal	Normal	None
15	Lucas Iron	M	50	Chef	140	90	80	Normal	Normal	None
16	Sophia Nickel	F	33	Teacher	118	79	71	Normal	Normal	None
17	Henry Platinum	M	68	Engineer	165	105	95	Normal	Normal	None
18	Evelyn Gold	F	44	Manager	132	86	79	Normal	Normal	None
19	Isaac Silver	M	53	Business	148	94	84	Normal	Normal	None
20	Charlotte Copper	F	37	Designer	122	81	73	Normal	Normal	None
21	Samuel Zinc	M	63	Scientist	158	100	90	Normal	Normal	None
22	Aria Tin	F	39	Analyst	128	84	77	Normal	Normal	None
23	Leo Iron	M	57	Chef	142	91	81	Normal	Normal	None
24	Grace Nickel	F	34	Teacher	119	80	72	Normal	Normal	None
25	Jack Platinum	M	69	Engineer	168	108	98	Normal	Normal	None
26	Lily Gold	F	46	Manager	134	87	80	Normal	Normal	None
27	Robert Silver	M	54	Business	150	96	86	Normal	Normal	None
28	Victoria Copper	F	36	Designer	124	82	74	Normal	Normal	None
29	William Zinc	M	64	Scientist	160	102	92	Normal	Normal	None
30	Xavier Tin	M	41	Analyst	126	83	76	Normal	Normal	None
31	Yara Iron	F	31	Chef	117	78	70	Normal	Normal	None
32	Zoe Nickel	F	43	Teacher	131	86	79	Normal	Normal	None
33	Adam Platinum	M	71	Engineer	172	112	102	Normal	Normal	None
34	Bella Gold	F	47	Manager	136	89	81	Normal	Normal	None
35	Charlie Silver	M	56	Business	152	98	88	Normal	Normal	None
36	Diana Copper	F	38	Designer	125	83	75	Normal	Normal	None
37	Ethan Zinc	M	66	Scientist	162	104	94	Normal	Normal	None
38	Fiona Tin	F	42	Analyst	129	85	78	Normal	Normal	None
39	George Iron	M	59	Chef	144	93	83	Normal	Normal	None
40	Hannah Nickel	F	35	Teacher	121	81	73	Normal	Normal	None
41	Ivan Platinum	M	73	Engineer	175	115	105	Normal	Normal	None
42	Jade Gold	F	49	Manager	138	91	83	Normal	Normal	None
43	Kyle Silver	M	58	Business	154	100	90	Normal	Normal	None
44	Laura Copper	F	39	Designer	127	84	76	Normal	Normal	None
45	Mason Zinc	M	68	Scientist	164	106	96	Normal	Normal	None
46	Nora Tin	F	44	Analyst	131	86	79	Normal	Normal	None
47	Oscar Iron	M	61	Chef	146	94	84	Normal	Normal	None
48	Peter Nickel	M	36	Teacher	123	82	74	Normal	Normal	None
49	Quinn Platinum	F	75	Engineer	178	118	108	Normal	Normal	None
50	Ruby Gold	F	51	Manager	140	93	85	Normal	Normal	None