

**THE NOVELS, TALES AND
SKETCHES;
VOL. VI, SENTIMENTAL
TOMMY, PART I**

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The novels, tales and sketches; Vol. VI, Sentimental Tommy, Part I by J. M. Barrie

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J. M. BARRIE

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SKETCHES;
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TOMMY, PART I**

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VOL. VI

SENTIMENTAL TOMMY



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



SENTIMENTAL TOMMY

PART I

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TO
MY WIFE

INTRODUCTION

THIS is not in the smallest degree the book I meant it to be. Tommy ran away with the author.

When we meet a man who interests us, and is perhaps something of an enigma, we may fall wondering what sort of boyhood he had; and so it is with writers who become inquisitive about their own creations. It was Sentimental Tommy the man that I intended to write of here; I had thought him out as carefully as was possible to me; but I suppose I saw the end more clearly than the beginning, for when I sat down to make a start I felt that I could not really know him at one and twenty unless I could picture him at fifteen, and one's character is so fixed at fifteen that I saw I must go farther back for him, and so I journeyed to his childhood. Even then I meant merely to summarize his early days, but I was loth to leave him, or perhaps it was he who was loth to grow up, having a suspicion of what was in store for him. "Let us have one more game in the Den," he cried, and I was a tool in his hands. But though we may put off the evil day as long as we can, come it must in the end.

