

**IS THIS YOUR SON,
MY LORD?
A NOVEL**

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Is This Your Son, My Lord? A Novel by Helen H. Gardener

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HELEN H. GARDENER

**IS THIS YOUR SON,
MY LORD?
A NOVEL**

"Is this your son, my Lord?" — *Shakespeare*



IS THIS YOUR SON, MY LORD?

A Novel

BY

HELEN H. GARDENER

AUTHOR OF

"Pray You, Sir, Whose Daughter?" "Pushed by Unseen Hands,"
"Men, Women and Gods," "Sex in Brain,"
"A Thoughtless Yes," Etc.



FORTY-FIRST EDITION

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Class of 1978

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"The shame itself doth call for instant remedy."—*Shakespeare*.

"I have told you what I have seen and heard but faintly; nothing like the image and horror of it."—*Ibid.*

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?"—*George Eliot*.

"Our English practice of excluding from literature subjects and references that are unfit for boys and girls, has something to recommend it, but it undeniably leans to a certain narrowness and thinness, and to some most nauseous hypocrisy. All subjects are not to be discussed by all; and one result in our case is that some of the most important subjects to the world receive no discussion whatever."—*John Morley*.

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

I.

[This book has been taken so seriously by its critics, whether they have criticised it favorably or unfavorably, that — for the second edition — its publisher deems an explanatory preface desirable.]

It is an interesting mental condition which enables people to know things and not know them at the same time; to be perfectly familiar with the facts, and yet fail to grasp their significance until it is put before them in dramatic form. Then they exclaim: "This cannot be true or I should have known it before. If it were true, it should be understood by all; but it is not true — it cannot be — it is too shocking!"

In writing this story the author had no idea that there would be any question as to its probability. She believed that most people of mature age, in this day of newspapers, had become so familiar with the recital of kindred facts that this tale would be merely a different presentation of a known condition; that it would be from a new point of view, perhaps, but not a new acquaintance,

She was aware that the picture had usually been drawn from an angle of vision opposed to her own; but she believed that artists and public knew that there was another side to every picture and that one day it would be drawn. The relations of the sexes have been exploited in song and in story ever since the first pair found in each other interest enough to stir the emotions to the depth of pleasure or pain that finds expression in language. The outlook has varied with the nature, ability or purpose of him who painted human life in words. The method, too, has depended upon the writer. One presents his thoughts and theories, his hopes, fears, and suggestions, in the form of essay or didactic argument. Another makes poetry a vehicle, and pleads the cause of labor as he writes "The Song of the Shirt," or scores