

Download Free Clarissa Or The History Of A Young Lady Samuel Richardson

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KEY=THE - WILLIAMSON ENGLISH

CLARISSA OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY ...

VOL. VI.

CLARISSA - AN ABRIDGED EDITION

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

Broadview Press This classic novel tells the story, in letters, of the beautiful and virtuous Clarissa Harlowe's pursuit by the brilliant, unscrupulous rake Robert Lovelace. The epistolary structure allows Richardson to create layered and fully realized characters, as well as an intriguing uncertainty about the reliability of the various "narrators." Clarissa emerges as a heroine at once rational and passionate, self-sacrificing and defiant, and her story has gripped readers since the novel's first publication in 1747-48. This new abridgment is designed to retain the novel's rich characterizations and relationships, and reproduces individual letters in their entirety whenever possible. This Broadview Edition provides a uniquely accessible entry point for readers, while retaining much of the powerful reading experience of the complete novel.

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

ReadHowYouWant.com One of the greatest novels of European literature, "Clarissa" is an indisputable masterpiece. Set in 18th-century England. A rich, complex and unique novel written in the form of letters. Richardson delves into the hearts and minds of his characters, their motives and intentions, consequently giving a glimpse of the complex human psyche. A true classic!

CLARISSA, OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE

CLARISSA, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY, VOLUME 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5

CreateSpace Clarissa, or, the History of a Young Lady is an epistolary novel by Samuel Richardson, published in 1748. It tells the tragic story of a heroine whose quest for virtue is continually thwarted by her family, and is one of the longest novels in the English language. Samuel Richardson (1689 - 1761) was an 18th-century English writer and printer. He is best known for his *Clarissa: Or the History of a Young Lady* (1748). Clarissa Harlowe, the tragic heroine of *Clarissa*, is a beautiful and virtuous young lady whose family has become wealthy only recently and now desires to become part of the aristocracy. Their original plan was to concentrate the wealth and lands of the Harlowes into the possession of Clarissa's brother James Harlowe, whose wealth and political power will lead to his being granted a title. Clarissa's grandfather leaves her a substantial piece of property upon his death, and a new route to the nobility opens through Clarissa marrying Robert Lovelace, heir to an earldom. James's response is to provoke a duel with Lovelace, who is seen thereafter as the family's enemy. James also proposes that Clarissa marry Roger Solmes, who is willing to trade properties with James to concentrate James's holdings and speed his becoming Lord Harlowe. The family agrees and attempts to force Clarissa to marry Solmes, whom she finds physically disgusting as well as boorish. In this book: *Clarissa, the History of a Young Lady Volume 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5*

CLARISSA HARLOWE

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY; COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE

CLARISSA HARLOWE, OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY —

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CLARISSA; OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT, BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE : IN EIGHT VOLUMES

CLARISSA, VOLUME 4

Comprehending the Most Important Concerns of Private Life; and Particularly shewing the Distresses that may attend the Misconduct both of Parents and Children, in relation to Marriage.

CLARISSA OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY ; COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY. COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. ... BY MR. SAMUEL RICHARDSON. IN EIGHT VOLUMES

CLARISSA, OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

CLARISSA OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY : COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE; AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE

CLARISSA. OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING, THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE. PUBLISHED BY THE EDITOR OF PAMELA. BY SAMUEL RICHARDSON

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY. COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. AND PARTICULARLY SHOWING THE DIFFICULTIES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE ...

CLARISSA HARLOWE

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: VOLUME 9

Pressured by her unscrupulous family to marry a wealthy man she detests, the young Clarissa Harlowe is tricked into fleeing with the witty and debonair Robert Lovelace and places herself under his protection. Lovelace, however, proves himself to be an untrustworthy rake whose vague promises of marriage are accompanied by unwelcome and increasingly brutal sexual advances. And yet, Clarissa finds his charm alluring, her scrupulous sense of virtue tinged with unconfessed desire. Told through a complex series of interweaving letters, "Clarissa" is a richly ambiguous study of a fatally attracted couple and a work of astonishing power and immediacy. A huge success when it first appeared in 1747, and translated into French and German, it remains one of the greatest of all European novels. Its

rich ambiguities - our sense of Clarissa's scrupulous virtue tinged with intimations of her capacity for self-deception in matters of sex; the wicked and amusing faces of Lovelace, who must be easily the most charming villain in English literature - give the story extraordinary psychological momentum.

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

CLARISSA, OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE

A M S Publications Originally published: 3rd ed. London: S. Richardson, 1751.

CLARISSA

ALL 9 VOLUMES - THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

e-artnow Clarissa: The History of a Young Lady is regency bestseller, the classic of English literature. _x000D_ It tells the tragic story of a young woman, whose quest for virtue is continually thwarted by her family. The Harlowes are a recently wealthy family whose preoccupation with increasing their standing in society leads to obsessive control of their daughter, Clarissa, who runs away from home to find love and happiness. However things start turning south soon.

CLARISSA, OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY (ILLUSTRATED)

Independently Published Pressured by her unscrupulous family to marry a wealthy man she detests, the young Clarissa Harlowe is tricked into fleeing with the witty and debonair Robert Lovelace and places herself under his protection. Lovelace, however, proves himself to be an untrustworthy rake whose vague promises of marriage are accompanied by unwelcome and increasingly brutal sexual advances. And yet, Clarissa finds his charm alluring, her scrupulous sense of virtue tinged with unconfessed desire. Told through a complex series of interweaving letters, "Clarissa" is a richly ambiguous study of a fatally attracted couple and a work of astonishing power and immediacy. A huge success when it first appeared in 1747, and translated into French and German, it remains one of the greatest of all European novels. Its rich ambiguities - our sense of Clarissa's scrupulous virtue tinged with intimations of her capacity for self-deception in matters of sex; the wicked and amusing faces of Lovelace, who must be easily the most charming villain in English literature - give the story extraordinary psychological momentum.

CLARISSA HARLOWE V1

THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

□□□ Clarissa Harlowe, the tragic heroine of Clarissa, is a beautiful and virtuous young lady whose family has become wealthy only recently and now desires to become part of the aristocracy. Their original plan was to concentrate the wealth and lands of the Harlowes into the possession of Clarissa's brother James Harlowe, whose wealth and political power will lead to his being granted a title. Clarissa's grandfather leaves her a substantial piece of property upon his death, and a new route to the nobility opens through Clarissa marrying Robert Lovelace, heir to an earldom. James's response is to provoke a duel with Lovelace, who is seen thereafter as the family's enemy. James also proposes that Clarissa marry Roger Solmes, who is willing to trade properties with James to concentrate James's holdings and speed his becoming Lord Harlowe. The family agrees and attempts to force Clarissa to marry Solmes, whom she finds physically disgusting as well as boorish. Desperate to remain free, she begins a correspondence with Lovelace. When her family's campaign to force her marriage reaches its height, Lovelace tricks her into eloping with him. Joseph Leman, the Harlowes' servant, shouts and makes noise so it may seem like the family has awoken and discovered that Clarissa and Lovelace are about to run away. Frightened of the possible aftermath, Clarissa leaves with Lovelace but becomes his prisoner for many months. She is kept at many lodgings and even a brothel, where the women are disguised as high-class ladies by Lovelace himself. She refuses to marry him on many occasions, longing to live by herself in peace. She eventually runs away but Lovelace finds her and tricks her into returning to the brothel. Lovelace intends to marry Clarissa to avenge her family's treatment of him and wants to possess her body as well as her mind. He believes if she loses her virtue, she will be forced to marry him on any terms. As he is more and more impressed by Clarissa, he finds it difficult to believe that virtuous women do not exist. The pressure he finds himself under, combined with his growing passion for Clarissa, drives him to extremes and eventually he rapes her by drugging her. Through this action, Clarissa must accept and marry Lovelace. It is suspected that Mrs. Sinclair (the brothel manager) and the other prostitutes assist Lovelace during the rape. Lovelace's action backfires and Clarissa is ever more adamantly opposed to marrying a vile and corrupt individual like Lovelace. Eventually, Clarissa manages to escape from the brothel but Lovelace finds her and by deception manages to get her back to the brothel. She escapes a second time, is jailed for a few days following a charge by the brothel owner for unpaid bills, is released and finds sanctuary with a shopkeeper and his wife. She lives in constant fear of again being accosted by Lovelace who, through one of his close associates and also a libertine - John Belford - as well as through his own family members, continues to offer her marriage, to which she is determined not to accede. She becomes dangerously ill due to the mental duress. As her illness progresses, she and John Belford become friends and she appoints him the executor of her will. She is dying and is determined to accept it and proceeds to get all her affairs in order. Belford is amazed at the way Clarissa handles her approaching death and laments what Lovelace has done. In one of the many letters sent to Lovelace he writes "if the divine Clarissa asks me to slit thy throat, Lovelace, I shall do it in an instance." Eventually, surrounded by strangers and her cousin Col. Morden, Clarissa dies in the full consciousness of her virtue and trusting in a better life after death. Belford manages Clarissa's will and ensures that all her articles and money go into the hands of the individuals she desires should receive them. Lovelace departs for Europe and his correspondence with his friend Belford continues. During their correspondence Lovelace learns that Col. Morden has suggested he might seek out Lovelace and demand satisfaction on behalf of his cousin. He responds that he is not able to accept threats against himself and arranges an encounter with Col. Morden. They meet in Munich and arrange a duel. The duel takes place, both are injured, Morden slightly, but Lovelace dies of his injuries the following day. Before dying he says "let this expiate!" Clarissa's relatives finally realise the misery they have caused but discover that they are too late and Clarissa has already died. The story ends with an account of the fate of the other characters.

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. IN EIGHT VOLUMES. ... THE THIRD EDITION. IN WHICH MANY PASSAGES AND SOME LETTERS ARE RESTORED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS. AND TO WHICH IS ADDED, AN AMPLE COLLECTION OF ... SENTIMENTS. ...

CLARISSA; OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE; AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE ...

CLARISSA OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE, AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN

CLARISSA HARLOWE OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

Clarissa, or, the History of a Young Lady is an epistolary novel by English writer Samuel Richardson, published in 1748. It tells the tragic story of a heroine whose quest for virtue is continually thwarted by her family and is regarded as one of the longest novels in the English language (based on estimated word count). It is generally regarded as Richardson's masterpiece. Pressured by her unscrupulous family to marry a wealthy man she detests, the young Clarissa Harlowe is tricked into fleeing with the witty and debonair Robert Lovelace and places herself under his protection. Lovelace, however, proves himself to be an untrustworthy rake whose vague promises of marriage are accompanied by unwelcome and increasingly brutal sexual advances. And yet, Clarissa finds his charm alluring, her scrupulous sense of virtue tinged with unconfessed desire. Told through a complex series of interweaving letters, "Clarissa" is a richly ambiguous study of a fatally attracted couple and a work of astonishing power and immediacy. A huge success when it first appeared in 1747, and translated into French and German, it remains one of the greatest of all European novels. Its rich ambiguities - our sense of Clarissa's scrupulous virtue tinged with intimations of her capacity for self-deception in matters of sex; the wicked and amusing faces of Lovelace, who must be easily the most charming villain in English literature - give the story extraordinary psychological momentum. This book will be a wonderful gift for both women and men!

CLARISSA, VOLUME 3

Book Excerpt: ...my mother, I know not. Yet if she hear it first from any other, and find I knew it before, she will believe it to be my connivance!--Yet, as I hope to live, I know not how to break it to her. But this is teasing you.--I am sure, without intention. Let me now repeat my former advice--If you are not married by this time, be sure delay not the ceremony. Since things are as they are, I wish it were thought that you were privately married before you went away. If these men plead AUTHORITY to our pain, when we are theirs--Why should we not, in such a case as this, make some good out of the hated word, for our reputation, when we are induced to violate a more natural one? Your brother and sister [that vexes me almost as much as any thing!] have now their ends. Now, I suppose, will go forward alterations of wills, and such-like spiteful doings.***Miss Lloyd and Miss Biddulph this moment send up their names. They are out of breath, Kitty says, to speak to me--easy to guess their erClose...

CLARISSA, VOLUME 2

Book Excerpt: ...than to perform!--Say then, my dear, that you will consider of it. Say you will but reason with yourself. Give us but hopes. Don't let me entreat, and thus entreat, in vain--[for still she kneeled, and I by her]. What a hard case is mine!--Could I but doubt, I know I could conquer. --That which is an inducement to my friends, is none at all to me--How often, my dearest Aunt, must I repeat the same thing?--Let me but be single--Cannot I live single? Let me be sent, as I have proposed, to Scotland, to Florence, any where: let me be sent a slave to the Indies, any where--any of these I will consent to. But I cannot, cannot think of giving my vows to man I cannot endure! Well then, rising, (Bella silently, with uplifted hands, reproaching my supposed perverseness,) I see nothing can prevail with you to oblige us. What can I do, my dearest Aunt Hervey? What can I do? Were I capable of giving a hope I meant not to enlarge, then could I say, I would consider of your kind advice. But I would rathClose..

CLARISSA HARLOWE, OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

Simon and Schuster Clarissa, or, the History of a Young Lady tells the tragic story of a heroine whose quest for virtue is continually thwarted by her family, and is one of the longest novels in the English language. Clarissa Harlowe is a beautiful and virtuous young lady whose family has become wealthy only recently and now desires to become part of the aristocracy. Their original plan was to concentrate the wealth and lands of the Harlowes into the possession of Clarissa's brother James Harlowe, whose wealth and political power will lead to his being granted a title.

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY; COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE

CLARISSA, OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY, BY THE EDITOR OF PAMELA. RICHARDSON

CLARISSA ; OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY IN FOUR VOLUMES

VOLUME TWO

CLARISSA; OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE; AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE .

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CLARISSA

HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

ReadHowYouWant.com One of the greatest novels of European literature, Clarissa is an indisputable masterpiece. Set in 18th-century England, a rich, complex and unique novel written in the form of letters. Richardson delves into the hearts and minds of his characters, their motives and intentions, consequently giving a glimpse of the complex human psyche. a true classic!

CLARISSA OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

TheClassics.us This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1774 edition. Excerpt: ... Clarissa or, The history of a young lady ... Samuel Richardson CLARISSA, OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE, AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE. VOL. III. LETTER I. Mr. Lovelace, To John Belford, Esq; St. Allans, Monday Night. Snatch a few moments while my Beloved is retired [as I hope, to rest] to perform my promise. No pursuit--Nor have I apprehensions of any; tho' I must make my charmer dread that there will be one. And now, let me tell thee, that never was joy so complete as mine!--But let me enquire--Is not the angel flown away? O no! She is in the next apartment!--Securely mine!--Mine for ever! O ecstasy!--My heart will burst my breast, To leap into her bosom!-- I knew that the whole stupid family were in a combination to do my business for me. I told thee B 2 that that they were all working for me, like so many underground moles; and still more blind than the moles are said to be, unknowing that they did so. I myself, the director of their, principal motions; which sailing in with the malice of their little hearts, they took to be all their own. But did I say, my joy was perfect?--O no!--It receives some abatement from my disgusted Bride. For how can I endure to think, that I owe more to her relations persecutions, than to her savour for me?-- Or even, as far as I know, to her presence of me to another man? But let me not indulge this thought. Were I to do so, it might cost my charmer dear. Let me rejoice, that she has passed the Rubicon: That she cannot return: That, as I have ordered it, the flight will appear to the

CLARISSA

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. IN SEVEN VOLUMES. ...

CLARISSA. OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY

COMPREHENDING THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF PRIVATE LIFE. AND PARTICULARLY SHEWING, THE DISTRESSES THAT MAY ATTEND THE MISCONDUCT BOTH OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, IN RELATION TO MARRIAGE.. VOL. V.

CLARISSA OR THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY - THE ORIGINAL CLASSIC EDITION

Tebbo Finally available, a high quality book of the original classic edition of Clarissa Or The History Of A Young Lady. This is a new and freshly published edition of this culturally important work by Samuel Richardson, which is now, at last, again available to you. Enjoy this classic work today. These selected paragraphs distill the contents and give you a quick look inside Clarissa Or The History Of A Young Lady: As your uncle Harlowe chooses not to answer your pert letter to him; and as mine, written to you before, * was written as if it were in the spirit of prophecy, as you have found to your sorrow; and as you are now making yourself worse than you are in your health, and better than you are in your penitence, as we are very well assured, in order to move compassion; which you do not deserve, having had so much warning: for all these reasons, I take up my pen once more; though I had told your brother, at his going to Edinburgh, that I would not write to you, even were you to write to me, without letting him know. ...Let me tell thee, Jack, that so much am I pleased with this world, in the main; though, in some points too, the world (to make a person of it,) has been a rascal to me; so delighted am I with the joys of youth; with my worldly prospects as to fortune; and now, newly, with the charming hopes given me by my dear, thrice dear, and for ever dear CLARISSA; that were I even sure that nothing bad would come hereafter, I should be very loth (very much afraid, if thou wilt have it so,) to lay down my life and them together; and yet, upon a call of honour, no man fears death less than myself. ...I thought I was so bad that I should have been out of his and every bodys way before now; for I expected not that this contrivance would serve me above two or three days; and by this time he must have found out that I am not so happy as to have any hope of a reconciliation with my family; and then he will come, if it be only in revenge for what he will think a deceit, but is not, I hope, a wicked one. ...I then told him, That upon this her refusal, I took upon myself to go to town, in hopes to move her in my favour; and that, though I went without giving her notice of my intention, yet had she got some notion of my coming, and so contrived to be out of the way; and at last, when she found I was fully determined at all events to see her, before I went abroad, (which I shall do, said I, if I cannot prevail upon her,) she sent me the letter I have already mentioned to you, desiring me to suspend my purposed visit; and that for a reason which amazes and confounds me; because I dont find there is any thing in it; and yet I never knew her once dispense with her word; for she always made it a maxim, that it was not lawful to do evil, that good might come of it: and yet in this letter, for no reason in the world but to avoid seeing me (to gratify an humour only) has she sent me out of town, depending upon the assurance she had given me. ...Wyerleys renewed address: of your lessons to me in Hickmans behalf, so approvable, were the man more so than he is; but indeed I am offended with him at this instant, and have been for these two days: of your sisters transportation-project: and of twenty and twenty other things: but am obliged to leave off, to attend my two cousins Spilsworth, and my cousin Herbert, who are come to visit us on account of my mothers illness-I will therefore dispatch these by Rogers; and if my mother gets well soon (as I hope she will) I am resolved to see you in town, and tell you every thing that now is upon my mind; and particularly, mingling my soul with yours, how much I am, and will ever be, my dearest, dear friend

CLARISSA HARLOWE

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: VOLUME 4

Pressured by her unscrupulous family to marry a wealthy man she detests, the young Clarissa Harlowe is tricked into fleeing with the witty and debonair Robert Lovelace and places herself under his protection. Lovelace, however, proves himself to be an untrustworthy rake whose vague promises of marriage are accompanied by unwelcome and increasingly brutal sexual advances. And yet, Clarissa finds his charm alluring, her scrupulous sense of virtue tinged with unconfessed desire. Told through a complex series of interweaving letters, "Clarissa" is a richly ambiguous study of a fatally attracted couple and a work of astonishing power and immediacy. A huge success when it first appeared in 1747, and translated into French and German, it remains one of the greatest of all European novels. Its rich ambiguities - our sense of Clarissa's scrupulous virtue tinged with intimations of her capacity for self-deception in matters of sex; the wicked and amusing faces of Lovelace, who must be easily the most charming villain in English literature - give the story extraordinary psychological momentum.

CLARISSA HARLOWE

OR, THE HISTORY OF A YOUNG LADY: VOLUME 9: LARGE PRINT

Pressured by her unscrupulous family to marry a wealthy man she detests, the young Clarissa Harlowe is tricked into fleeing with the witty and debonair Robert Lovelace and places herself under his protection. Lovelace, however, proves himself to be an untrustworthy rake whose vague promises of marriage are accompanied by unwelcome and increasingly brutal sexual advances. And yet, Clarissa finds his charm alluring, her scrupulous sense of virtue tinged with unconfessed desire. Told through a complex series of interweaving letters, "Clarissa" is a richly ambiguous study of a fatally attracted couple and a work of astonishing power and immediacy. A huge success when it first appeared in 1747, and translated into French and German, it remains one of the greatest of all European novels. Its rich ambiguities - our sense of Clarissa's scrupulous virtue tinged with intimations of her capacity for self-deception in matters of sex; the wicked and amusing faces of Lovelace, who must be easily the most charming villain in English literature - give the story extraordinary psychological momentum.