

1800

# Justina, or, The Filial Daughter

Elizabeth Sandham

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**JUSTINA ;**  
**OR, THE**  
**FILIAL DAUGHTER.**

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Embellished with a magic Lanthorn Exhibition.

Published and Sold by David Hogan, No. 249,  
Market-street, Philadelphia.

Stephen Picher

1. *Indica*



JUSTINA;

OR,

THE FILIAL DAUGHTER.

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MR. AND MRS. MANLY, FREDERIC, EDWARD,  
SOPHY AND CAROLINE.

MR. MANLY.

TAKE your seats; I am ready to begin.

SOPHY.

All ready, papa.—Look, Caroline, what a pretty country girl! I do not think she sees that poor little crying child among the bushes.

CAROLINE.

I do not think she does; and she appears to be as merry as the other is sad: what a difference between their two faces!

## MR. MANLY.

She is pleased because she is going to a gentleman's house, by appointment, to fetch some comfortable things to her mother, who is very ill and infirm.

The young ladies of the family being caught in a heavy shower one evening near the cottage where she lived, were happy to enter it, and were very much surprised to find so much order and neatness in so poor a place. The mother had been endeavouring to spin, but had been obliged to put her wheel aside ; Justina sat by her, knitting, and appeared to be talking with her and consoling her ; whilst an elder girl, with a very discontented air, was idly lounging at the window. As they approached the door, they heard a voice say, " Pray, Mary, do not hurt my myrtle ; you know how long I have had it, and that our mother likes to look at it ; she cannot go out into our little garden, and she likes to see something in the window : you had better mend your cap."

The young ladies made no observations on what they had heard, but enquiring kindly into the situation of the poor woman and her daughter, and though she made no complaint of Mary they soon perceived, by her conversation, that there was a great difference in the disposition of the two girls.--" Justina, with a little help from a neighbour now and then, kept their bit of garden



in order ;—Justina cleaned the room, and rubbed their little oak table so bright,—it was she who cooked their potatoes, and (when they could get a bit of meat) ~~who~~ made a bason of broth for her.

—Justina was always happy to oblige as far as she was able : she would nurse a sick child for one, weed the garden of another, and help the haymakers in busy times for any of the farmers in the village ; and as she never required payment for those trifling services, as she called them, and that her attention to her mother was well known, she was extremely beloved by all the neighbours, and never came home without a present of a small brown loaf, a few eggs, or some fresh vegetables.”

Mary heard all these praises of her sister without quitting the window, or once turning round ; and the ladies took no notice of her, but said they were glad she had a daughter who appeared so well inclined to nurse and take care of her ; desired she would come to their house the next day, and that they would send her some things which they thought would be of service to her health, as well as some nourishing food, which she appeared to stand in need of ; slipped a few shillings into her hand ; and telling Justina not to fail being with them at ten o'clock, the rain being quite over, and the weather very fine, wished her a good day, and departed.

“ Thank God,” exclaimed Mary, the moment



they were gone, "we shall have something good to-morrow, I hope."

"Thank God rather," said Justina, "our poor dear mother will have something comfortable.—No, dear young ladies, never fear, I shall not forget." Nor did she; for the moment the village clock struck nine, she turned the hour glass, and when the sand was half run, set forward on the walk to 'squire Howard's, which was above a mile distant from their cottage.

You now see her on the road; and as you know the errand she was going upon, will not wonder that she looks so pleased and happy.

She had often lamented that she had not a drop of wine to give her mother, and very seldom even a little nourishing broth; now she would perhaps have both. She was sure the ladies would give her some wine; she had heard them say she wanted something comfortable:—and who knows thought she, if they should continue to be kind to her, but my mother may recover her health, and be once more able to walk about and enjoy herself.

In those pleasing reflections she hastened along, scarcely minding where she trod: and had she not been roused by the sobbing of a child, would have passed behind the bushes where it was sitting without perceiving it.

Anxious as she was to pursue her way, Justina stopped to ask the infant how it came to be left

alone in that unfrequented path, but it was too young to be able to give any correct account of itself, and only repeated several times, "Tommy gone away, Patty gone away; and it was impossible to discover, by the answers she made to the different questions put to her, to whom she belonged, or where she came from.

Poor Justina was cruelly embarrassed; she could not think of leaving the child in such a deplorable way, nor could she take her with her to Mr. Howard's, she was too heavy for her to carry so far, and she appeared already fatigued and could not have walked with her; besides that her tiny steps would not have suited the impatience the kind hearted girl felt to procure every comfort in her power for her mother. She waited a long time, hoping to see some person belonging to the child; called as loud as she could, but to no purpose, it was in a lonely place, not a house any where, nor a creature to be seen!—What could she do?—She at length determined to return, and leave the child at the cottage whilst she went to the 'squire's, and this she did as expeditiously as she could, and surprised her mother by laying the little creature (who had fallen fast asleep in her arms) on her lap, desiring she would take care of it, and that her sister would give it a little milk and bread when it awoke.

Mary was extremely angry when she heard how Justina had found the child, and asked her

what business she had to bring it there ; said they had not common necessaries for themselves, and did not want any body to help them to eat up the little they made shift to get : but she paid no attention to her ill-natured remarks, and only stayed to place the little stranger on the bed, where she covered it with her mother's cloak, and once more, with a light heart, sat out on her walk.

She arrived quite out of breath at Mr. Howard's : the young ladies wondered she would be so much later than they had appointed her, and said they did not imagine she would have loitered on such an occasion.

Justina could not bear they should suppose she would neglect her mother ; and, therefore, to excuse her delay, told them her adventure, which pleased them so much, and excited their curiosity to so great a degree, that they determined to accompany her to her mother's cottage, that they might assist her in carrying what they had prepared for her, and at the same time have the pleasure of seeing the child, on whose account they felt themselves extremely interested, and bestowed great commendations on Justina for having taken charge of it, considering her own poverty, and that she needed no incumbrances ; but she very good-naturedly answered, that if she had but one morsel of bread she would beg for the poor child till she could find its mother, on whose account she was very unhappy, and had been reflecting all

the way as she came along how distressed and frightened she must be. The ladies said they would procure a man or two to go round the neighbourhood and endeavour to find her; and that they had no doubt but they should, without difficulty, discover who the child belonged to, as such a loss would soon be talked of and known in the village.

They were soon equipped for their walk. Justina had a nice warm blanket put under her arm for her mother, and a little basket in her hand; and each of the young ladies took charge of something, not forgetting a few cakes for the poor child.

On entering the cottage they found it awake, and crying for bread, which Justina's mother (unable to move from her seat) could not give it, and which Mary refused to do, because, she said, they wanted bread themselves.

The young ladies had no sooner cast their eyes on the child's frock, than they both immediately exclaimed, "surely 'tis little Fanny;" and the child immediately knowing them, answered, "Yes, Fanny, Fanny, hungry—bread, bread." It was indeed their nurse's child: but how the poor thing had wandered so far from home (above two miles) they could not imagine. A man was immediately dispatched to fetch the mother, and in the mean time it was refreshed with warm milk,

bread and butter, and the cakes they had brought with them.

Justina's mother was also taken care of; and the ladies promised to see her very often, and that she should not want for any thing.

They now waited impatiently the arrival of the nurse, who they concluded the man would find half distracted. Indeed, the whole village was in motion, some running one way, and some another; the poor miserable mother flying through the fields and lanes, inquiring of every one she met for her lost child, and terrified lest she should find it drowned in some brook, or in the river which watered a meadow near her house.

Her two elder children. Tommy, and Patty, whose imprudence and disobedience of their mother's commands had occasioned this distressing scene, stood bellowing and roaring at the door of the cottage, having said, in answer to the questions put to them concerning their sister, that they did not know where she was; and, as the brook and the river were all the neighbours appeared to fear, no one thought of losing time by examining them any further: and it was not till the man arrived and peace and happiness were restored to the poor woman's heart, that they discovered how it happened that little Fanny was found so far from home.

They were often employed by their mother to play with and amuse the child, when she was par-

ticularly busy, but were strictly forbidden ever to take her beyond the garden and field adjoining. Tommy and Patty had, however, set their minds upon a farther ramble one morning, when unfortunately the little sister was committed to their care, and as they did not choose to be disappointed, came to a determination to take her with them, agreeing to carry her when she was tired. They accordingly sat off, and wandered much farther than they even intended to do; still they had a mind to walk in the wood which they saw before them.—What should they do?—Fanny was tired before they had walked a hundred yards from home, and they were both tired of carrying her. The best way would be to find a nice comfortable seat for her, give her some pretty flowers to play with, and leave her a moment whilst they went to see what the wood was like, and if there were any strawberries in it.

Strawberries were to be found in plenty, and they were not disposed to leave any behind. Tommy began to fill his hat, Patty hers;—little Fanny was quite forgotten, as well as the winding of the path by which they entered the wood.

They rambled about a long time, and at length got out of it, nearly opposite to the part they had entered. They had great difficulty to find the place in which they had left their sister: she was no longer there, nor could they find her by any means; and after calling her by her name several

times, flattered themselves that some person passing by had carried her home, never once recollecting that she was not old enough to be able to tell where she lived.

I need not say how happy poor nurse was when she held her little Fanny once more in her arms, or how many thanks and blessings she bestowed on Justina for the care of her. She said, she never should forget it; and she kept her word, for the next day she sent half a dozen new laid eggs to her mother, and a very pretty handkerchief for herself, which she had bought at the fair; and, as she was very much interested in their future welfare, called to see them whenever she had time.

Justina never wanted friends, and she had the comfort of seeing her mother quite restored to health before the end of the summer. She then opened a day school for the children of the village; and, as Justina was very well able to assist her in teaching them to knit and read, she had a great many, and they lived very comfortably.

SOPHY.

Pray papa, tell me what became of Mary? I am sure she never could be of any use or assistance to her mother.



MR. MANLY.

It was not likely, indeed : on the contrary, she grew more and more idle and ill-humoured ; and as nothing the cottage afforded was ever nice enough for her, and that she appeared to grudge Justina, and even her mother, every comfort, though she would not contribute by her labour to procure for them or herself the common necessities of life, she was obliged to bind her an apprentice to a farmer in the next village, where, though she was very kindly treated, she soon found it was a rule that those who would not work were not to eat, and where all were employed it would be ridiculous to expect to be idle ; nor did she dare treat her master and mistress as she had done her mother, and could not at times help reproaching herself for the ungrateful return she had made to so indulgent a parent.

FREDERIC.

But what do you think of Tom and Patty ? They surely deserved punishment. How could they, for the hope of finding a few paltry strawberries, leave that poor little baby by itself. If it had happened to me to do such a thing (which I am sure I never could), I would not have gone home till I had found her, if I had slept in a hedge.

CAROLINE.

I should have been afraid to do that.

FREDERIC.

Afraid!—of what? should I not have been as safe under a hedge, as in my bed. I have no fear of any thing, unless indeed of not taking care enough of what is committed to my charge.

MR. MANLY.

Very right, Frederic, always execute faithfully whatever you undertake.

JOHN BOUVIER, PRINTER.