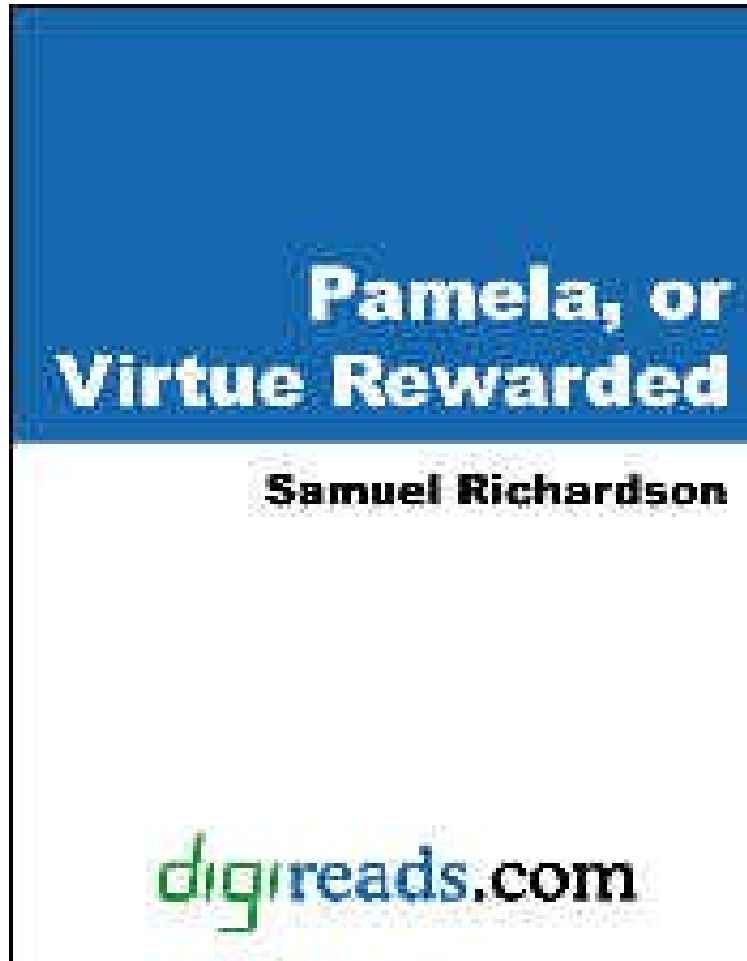


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## Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded [with Biographical Introduction]

*Von Samuel Richardson*

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**Von Samuel Richardson : Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded [with Biographical Introduction]** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded [with Biographical Introduction]:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Where the Novel STARTEDVon Ein KundeThis is where it all started. Richardson gives this fast moving epistolary story a fun and predictable story of cat and mouse. The story is simple and short. Maiden is beautiful and is the center of attention by the rich aristocratic master. Retaining her virtue, she places her sentimentality ahead of possible riches if she gives into the master's advances. Truely a common element of seduction in the Eighteenth century. In all respects, the reason to pick up this novel is Richardson's use of language and sentiments. This novel produces a great deal of reader participation. For one, the reader must decide which side he or she will side with. Siding with one or the other would produce a different outcome to the ending. This novel reads fast and is filled with great eighteenth-century

vernacular language. Lots of insults and name calling are also included which are extremely funny. Calling this novel a "preview" to Richardson's masterpiece *Clarissa* is unjust. This is a masterpiece on its own and it will not disappoint with the first, second, or third reading.<sup>5</sup> von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. TRASH Von Ein Kunde My teacher at the University used to say that "Pamela" ought to be read rather for its psychological depth than for the almost nonexistent plot. If you read it, she said, waiting for something to happen, you'll hang yourself in despair. However, hard as I tried, I could find no psychological insight at all. I mean that Pamela's behaviour is inconsistent from beginning to end. She starts admiring Mr B, then she starts loathing him because he attempts rape on her. Perfectly logic. But afterwards!! She takes up every possible excuse in order not to escape from Mr B. (including the sight of a cow! Come on, who could ever be scared by a cow, and in the Eighteenth century too, when people were used to sighting such "frightening" animals?!) and in the end, when he finally offers marriage to her, she starts calling him angel, and best of men and so on, just as if nothing had happened. I could not help agreeing with Henry Fielding that "pretty Pamela" had planned to marry Mr B. from the beginning and that far from being innocent she was actually sordid. Another puzzling point was the fact that almost everybody (including Mr B.'s sister) read Pamela's diary and nobody helped her, and I mean NOBODY at all. I can't believe that Eighteenth Century people valued privacy and discretion so much as to avoid interfering with criminal behaviour of every sort. In a word, Richardson handled the plot too awkwardly to make it plausible. Note that he meant the book to be didactic, but many people actually read it because some scenes could be easily mistaken for pornographic writing (i.e. the two attempted rapes in which Pamela's nakedness is very minutely described, along with all the spots that Mr B.'s hands were busy in trying to reach...). What writer would ever be so clumsy as to entirely miss his aim? Maybe Defoe only... It must have been a shortcoming common to Puritan novelists. Far from being a masterpiece, "Pamela" is TRASH (in Italian: una vera ciofecca!!), don't waste your time with it. Read *Shamela*, by Henry Fielding, instead: it will be worth it.<sup>2</sup> von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An important novel \*and\* a pleasurable read!! Von Ein Kunde Pamela should be noted for more than its epistolarity. As Margaret Doody remarks in her recent introduction to different edition of Richardson's novel, Pamela makes a lower-class female character the center of a romance. Through the young serving maid Pamela, Richardson introduces readers to the realism and psychological detail he goes on to develop and refine in Clarissa, as well as later novels. While this reader would hesitate to hold up Pamela as a radical or revolutionary figure for the above reasons, which is what Doody does in her reading of the novel, she certainly would not dismiss the novel or its heroine as quickly and completely as did the previous reviewer. Instead, this reader would suggest that other readers see the repetitive nature of Pamela's style, her apparent vanity, and the moments of seemingly unintended comedy (as well as the deliberate moments of humor Richardson carefully does include) as features of the novel that mark the difficulty Richardson might have had concocting this first novel and imagining a voice and style for its heroine. Pay attention to what Richardson tries to do, as well as where and why he might seem to fail. Compare this novel to others that you've read from the eighteenth century and earlier. See the difference, even development, between Pamela and Robinson Crusoe. Note the striking similarities between Pamela and Roxana. Consider the ways in which Pamela and her many voices come from the hand of a master printer commissioned not to write a novel, but a guide to letter-writing. And note: the 1740 version of this novel looks a lot different from later versions that Richardson refined, changing Pamela's phrasing, as well as details like words in italics and the use of dashes. The result is two somewhat different Pamelas. Read the latter as Richardson's response to the barrage of anti-Pamela writing that hit the presses almost immediately after his own novel first appeared in print! .

Kurzbeschreibung Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded [with Biographical Introduction] Kurzbeschreibung Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded [with Biographical Introduction] Synopsis Fifteen-year-old Pamela Andrews, alone in the world, is pursued by her dead mistress' son. Although she is attracted to Mr B, she holds out against his demands, determined to protect her virginity and abide by her moral standards Psychologically acute in its explorations of sex, freedom and power, Richardson's first novel caused a sensation when it was published. Richly comic and lively, "Pamela" contains a diverse cast of characters ranging from the vulgar and malevolent Mrs Jewkes to the aggressive but awkward country squire.