



Young Archimedes and Other Stories

By Aldous Huxley

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Young Archimedes and Other Stories By Aldous Huxley

In these semi-autobiographical stories, Huxley discourses on life and death, accident and necessity, natives and foreigners. They show Huxley in his most pensive mood, far removed from the didactic counter-utopianism with which he is often identified. *Young Archimedes* takes place in Italy. The story starts as a test in aesthetic sensibilities, between natives and visitors. Guido's musical predilections, his precocity, was more rooted in Archimedes than in Mozart. But the nature of his unusual talents was never quite understood. In contrast, the young English boy, the counterpart, is ordinary to a fault. What happens is a chilling example of a child pushed beyond his limits by well-intentioned parents. In *Little Mexican*, the English visitor learns that life beyond the university is emancipation not just in the literature of Mallarm and the philosophy of Nietzsche, but in the sensual ways of the world itself. Emancipation is in the life of love, and in the struggle to remain young. *Fard*, *Hubert and Minnie*, and *The Portrait* take place in France and England, with their themes of unrequited love, affection between lovers of different nations, and social standing.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) was an English writer and editor of *Oxford Poetry*. His interests included parapsychology and philosophical mysticism, and he is known in many academic circles as a leader of modern thought. He is the recipient of both the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the Companion of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature. His many works include *Brave New World*, *Themes and Variations*, and *The Genius and the Goddess*.

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