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- 0. Introduction by Jerome K. Jerome
- 1. Ready-Money Mortiboy by Walter Besant
- 2. The Family Scapegrace by James Payn
- 3. The Wreck of the Grosvenor by W. Clark Russell
- 4. Physiological Aesthetics and Philistia by Grant Allen
- 5. The Shadow of a Crime by Hall Caine
- 6. The Social Kaleidoscope by George R. Sims
- 7. Departmental Ditties by Rudyard Kipling
- 8. Juvenilia by Arthur Conan Doyle
 9. The Trail of the Serpent by M.E. Braddon
- 10. The House of Elmore by F. W. Robinson
- 11. Dawn by H. Rider Haggard
- 12. Hudson's Bay by R. M. Ballantyne
- 13. The Premier and the Painter by I. Zangwill
- 14. The Western Avernus by Morley Roberts (Read by Patti Cunningham)
- 15. A Life's Atonement by David Christie Murray
- 16. A Romance of Two Worlds by Marie Corelli
- 17. On the Stage and Off by Jerome K. Jerome
- 18. Cavalry Life by John Strange Winter
- 19. Californian Verse by Bret Harte
- 20. Dead Man's Rock by 'Q' (Read by Patti Cunningham)
- 21. Undertones and Idvis and Legends of Inverburn by Robert Buchanan
- 22. Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson Total running time: 9:09:01

This is not a children's book, as may be supposed from the title, but a collection of essays first published in The Idler magazine, in which over twenty well-known writers describe with characteristic style and humour their experiences in producing their first book... and getting it published.

The book is profusely illustrated, not only with portraits of the authors, but also with scenes and illustrations from the books discussed.

Full of charm, humour and pathos, this book is like a fireside chat with authors of the past, as well as being a fascinating insight into the literary scene of the late 19th century.

Read mostly by Ruth Golding, with some contributions by Patti Cunningham.

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