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The Prodigal Daughter: An Edition of an Anonymous Text

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Abstract

The Prodigal Daughter (1736) is a poem that, on the surface, appears to be an approachable text that was likely geared towards a children's audience during New England's first Great Awakening, within the approachable format of a chapbook. However, when explored further, *The Prodigal Daughter* reveals a complicated textual history during a time of theological and social revival in New England. This thesis considers the historical context of *The Prodigal Daughter's* narrative, as well as the poem's publication history. The text's transmission is carefully examined and encapsulated in this edition—giving the reader a transcription that is the result of collating twenty-eight surviving witnesses of *The Prodigal Daughter*. This thesis serves as a critical edition of *The Prodigal Daughter*, with an introduction which includes a careful consideration of gendered theology, homiletics, the literary marketplace, and the role of the devil in the female conversion narrative during New England's first Great Awakening.

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Related Pages. Proverbs 31 Ministries. The Prodigal Daughter. "Chalk up another smash hit for Jeffrey Archer...an exceptional storyteller." —John Barkham Reviews. But then his luck turned when an anonymous backer, who, Abel concluded, must be David Maxton of the Stevens Hotel, purchased the Richmond Group and offered Abel his old position as managing director and a chance to prove he could run the company at a profit. Abel recalled how he had been reunited with Zaphia, the self-assured girl he had first met on board the ship that had brought them to America. How immature she had made him feel then, but not when they met and he discovered she was a waitress at the Stevens.