Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded

by Samuel Richardson (1689-1761)

Now first Published in order to cultivate the Principles of Virtue and Religion in the Minds of the YOUTH of BOTH SEXES. A Narrative which has its Foundation in TRUTH and NATURE; and at the same time that it agreeably entertains, by a Variety of curious and affecting Incidents, is entirely divested of all those Images, which, in too many Pieces calculated for Amusement only, tend to inflame the Minds they should instruct. (From the frontpiece of the first edition).

Pamela tells the story of a 14-year-old lady’s maid named Pamela whose master, Mr. B., makes unwanted advances towards her. She rejects him continually, and her virtue is eventually rewarded when he shows his sincerity by proposing an equitable marriage to her. In Pamela’s letters to her “poor but exemplary parents” the story unfolds.

Total running time: 22:10:34

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Painting by Joseph Highmore, from a series of illustrations for Pamela, c. 1743