The Late Breakfasters begins as a rather old-fashioned comedy of manners featuring eight or ten vivid eccentrics in a country house, and develops into a largely amiable Bildungsroman with an undertone of grief, a few hints of the fantastic and various side-swipes at the minions of modernity. The late breakfasters. I dedicate this book to. Herbert van Thal. Philip challinor. Valancourt books. The Late Breakfasters and Other Strange Stories by Robert Aickman. First Valancourt Books edition 2016. The Late Breakfasters was originally published by Gollancz in 1964 â€œ.Â With van Thalâ€™s encouragement, Aickman also produced his only published full-length novel, The Late Breakfasters (1964), which for many years has been virtually impossible to obtain. Four of the stories in the present book appeared in Aickmanâ€™s next collection, Powers of Darkness (1966); the other two are from the posthumous Night Voices (1985). Between 1968 and his death in 1981, Aickman produced five more collections, almost all subtitled â€œStrange Storiesâ€ or â€œStrange Talesâ€: one comprising reprinted and revised stories and the rest made up of original works. In The Late Breakfasters, young Griselda de Reptonville is invited by Mrs. Hatch to a house party at her country estate, Beams (which, incidentally, is haunted). There, amidst an array of eccentric characters and bizarre happenings, she will meet the love of her life, Louise. But when their short-lived relationship is cruelly cut short, Griselda must embark on a quest to recapture the happiness she has lost.