

**THE COMPLETE WORKS
OF GEORGE ELIOT;
ROMOLA, VOL. III**

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The complete works of George Eliot; Romola, Vol. III by George Eliot

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GEORGE ELIOT

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ROMOLA.



The Complete Works
of
George Eliot

ROMOLA

VOLUME III

ILLUSTRATED



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ROMOLA.

BOOK III. (*continued*).

CHAPTER I.

BY A STREET LAMP.

THAT evening, when it was dark and threatening rain, Romola, returning with Maso and the lantern by her side, from the hospital of San Matteo, which she had visited after vespers, encountered her husband just issuing from the monastery of San Marco. Tito, who had gone out again shortly after his arrival in the Via de' Bardi, and had seen little of Romola during the day, immediately proposed to accompany her home, dismissing Maso, whose short steps annoyed him. It was only usual for him to pay her such an official attention when it was obviously demanded from him. Tito and Romola never jarred, never remonstrated with each other. They were too hopelessly alienated in their inner life ever to have that contest which is an effort towards agreement. They talked of all affairs, public and private, with careful adherence to an adopted course. If Tito wanted a supper prepared in the old library,