A DARK SECRET. IN THREE VOLUMES. VOL. I

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A Dark Secret. In Three Volumes. Vol. I by Eliza Rhyl Davies

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ELIZA RHYL DAVIES

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ELIZA RHYL DAVIES,

AUTHOR OF "THE MYSTERY OF ASHLEIGH MANOR."

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"The idea of thy life shall sweetly creep, Into my study of imagination; And every lovely organ of thy life Shall come apparelled in more precious habit— More moving delicate, and full of life, Into the eye and prespect of my soul, Than when thou uvedst indeed."

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. 1.





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A DARK SECRET.

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CHAPTER I.

DR. ERSKINE FRASER.

If parting of friends, absence alone, can work such violent effects, what shall death do, when they must eternally be separated, never in this world to meet again?... They that are most staid and patient, are so furiously carried headlong by the passion of sorrow in their case, that brave discreet men otherwise often forget themselves, and weep like children many months together.—*Robert Burton.*

WHEN the nineteenth century was a good many years younger than it now is, a certain Dr. Erskine Fraser, who had made VOL. I. I