

DICK: A STORY WITHOUT A PLOT

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Dick: A Story Without a Plot by G. F. Bradby

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G. F. BRADBY

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WITHOUT A PLOT**

DICK

A STORY WITHOUT A PLOT

BY

G. F. BRADBY

AUTHOR OF 'JOSHUA NEWINGS; OR, THE LOVE BAGILLDS'
'THE MARQUIS'S EYE' ETC.

LONDON

SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE

1906

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PREFACE

'Qui s'excuse s'accuse,' and a preface is almost necessarily something of an excuse. My sole object in writing this is to explain that, though I have made my hero a Rugby boy, the character and incidents are purely imaginary. Individual boys may find expressions of their own detached from their original context and woven into new situations ; but that is the only liberty I have taken. The masters introduced or alluded to are all either fictions of the brain or, as in the case of the Housemaster, intentional parodies of myself.

G. F. B.

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DICK

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

Septon, July 21.—The other day, at breakfast, my wife looked up from her letters.

‘Dear, dear !’ she said ; ‘poor Miss Abingdon is dead.’

‘How sad !’ I replied, with a sudden effort to appear sympathetic. I was reading a rather humorous thing in ‘Punch,’ and I only knew Miss Abingdon by name.

My wife put down her letter and looked out of the window : when she does that I know that she is mustering up courage to propose something which will annoy me. About once in a hundred times I am mistaken. So I said nothing, but hoped that this was the exceptional time.