

# **JONATHAN: A TRAGEDY**

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Jonathan: A Tragedy by Jr. Ewing

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**JR. EWING**

# **JONATHAN: A TRAGEDY**



# JONATHAN

## *A TRAGEDY*

BY  
THOMAS EWING, JR.

An imitation of the very best and noblest life is the  
very truth of tragedy.

—PLATO (*The Laws*)

. . . and if it be according  
To the old text, still better.

—BYRON (*Don Juan*)



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1902

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## PREFACE

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SAUL, the first King of Israel, and David, the great king, so overshadowed Jonathan, who was but a prince, that he interested the Biblical narrator mainly as a factor in the feud between the great rivals. That the situation in which he was placed was tragic, and that he displayed elevation of character, is clear; but there is lacking the wealth of detail with which his career and personality would have been developed had he been of greater political importance. For this reason I have felt that the story, as it is told in the first book of Samuel, could be elaborated with advantage. The setting which I have wrought for it is adorned with gems of thought and expression taken from the Bible freely and at random. These and other conscious borrowings are acknowledged in the notes.





## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

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SAUL . . . . .	<i>King of Israel</i>
JONATHAN . . . . .	<i>Saul's Oldest Son and Heir</i>
DAVID . . . . .	<i>Anointed of Samuel</i>
SAMUEL . . . . .	<i>The Prophet</i>
ABNER . . . . .	<i>Cousin to Saul</i>
ESHBAAL, MELCHISUA, and ABINADAB . . . . .	<i>Sons of Saul</i>
ARMORI and MEPHIBOSHETH . . . . .	<i>Sons of Rizpah and Saul</i>
ADRIEL . . . . .	<i>Saul's Son-in-law</i>
PALTI . . . . .	<i>Saul's Son-in-law</i>
DOEG . . . . .	<i>Saul's Chief Herdsman</i>
ZIBA . . . . .	<i>A Servant of Saul</i>
ELHANAN . . . . .	<i>A Lad</i>
<i>An Amalekite, Cooks, Messengers, and Soldiers</i>	
MICHAL . . . . .	<i>A Daughter of Saul and Wife of David</i> <i>and afterward of Palti</i>
ABINOAM . . . . .	<i>Jonathan's Wife, and their Two Children</i>
MERAB . . . . .	<i>A Daughter of Saul and Wife of Adriel</i> <i>Women of the Populace</i>



## ACT I