

**LIFE THE ACCUSER:
A NOVEL; IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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Life the accuser: a novel; In Three volumes, Vol. I by E. F. Brooke

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BY

E. F. BROOKE

AUTHOR OF

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IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. I.

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VOL. I.

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CHAPTER I

THE Armstrong family, with one exception, accepted their own theory of existence without misgiving. The exception rebelled. Unfortunately this single enterprise was strategically ill-managed and returned upon the rebel in suffocating bitterness of heart, against which there was no resource save in private explosions whose point was lost to the world.

This is how it came about that on a fine summer afternoon in the year 1876, Eliza Armstrong, a girl of something over twenty years of age, declared to herself with every evidence of sincerity, that "life was not worth living," and that she "did not know why she had been born."

The mischief was that intellectually Eliza