



Silas Marner and Two Short Stories (Barnes & Noble Classics)

George Eliot

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George Eliot's third novel, *Silas Marner* (1861) is a powerful and moving tale about one man's journey from exile and loneliness to the warmth and joy of the family.

The story opens as Silas Marner, falsely accused of theft, loses everything, including his faith in God. Embittered and alienated from his fellow man, he moves to the village of Raveloe, where he becomes a weaver. Taking refuge in his work, Silas slowly begins to accumulate gold—his only joy in life—until one day that too is stolen from him. Then one dark evening, a beautiful, golden-haired child, lost and seeing the light from Silas's cottage, toddles in through his doorway. As Silas grows to love the girl as if she were his own daughter, his life changes into something precious. But his happiness is threatened when the orphan's real father comes to claim the girl as his own, and Silas must face losing a treasure greater than all the gold in the world.

This volume also includes two shorter works by Eliot—*The Lifted Veil*, a dark Gothic fantasy about a morbid young clairvoyant, and *Brother Jacob*, a deliciously satirical fable about a confectioner's apprentice.

George Levine is Kenneth Burke Professor of English Literature at Rutgers University, and director of the University's Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture. He has written extensively about Victorian literature and culture, and has for a long time focused attention on Darwin and the relations between science and literature, particularly in his *Darwin and the Novelists*. He has written and edited many books, on subjects ranging from Frankenstein to the works of Thomas Pynchon. Most recently, he has edited *The Cambridge Companion to George Eliot* and written a study of Victorian scientific thought and literature, *Dying to Know*.

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