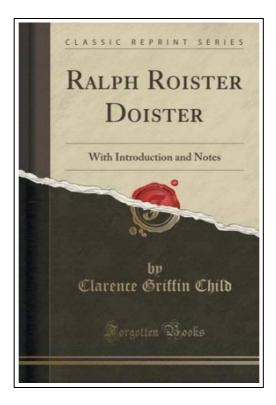
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Ralph Roister Doister: With Introduction and Notes Ralph Roister Doister and Gorboduc, or Ferrex and Porrex, are plays of early date and great intrinsic merit. Have they a further distinction - are they the first regular English comedy and tragedy? What is their place in the history of the drama? From the earliest times among the English people the impulse to dramatic expression - which is universal - took form in folk-dances, folk-games, folk-plays; some have remained even to our own day. Such primitive forms of the play may, as among the Greeks, develop into a regular drama, but only tardily, without orderly progress or continuity, with long deferral of an awakening of conscious art. To insure continuity, to hasten progress, some external agency must give the play more assured social standing and dignity. Tragedy outstripped comedy among the Greeks because its presentation was a religious ceremonial; in medieval Europe, the Church, the central social institution of the Middle Ages, at once democratic and aristocratic, though it had repressed and brought to an end the Roman drama, itself later, by using drama to enrich its services and enforce its teaching, provided the starting-point for a new development. In the liturgical play - at first merely a brief action, with a word or two of dialogue, inserted in the liturgy of special festivals - the miracle or religious play, presenting events from the Bible or the lives of saints, took rise. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct...

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