
William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's Sonnets (Dodo Press)



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Description

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an English poet and playwright, now widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" (or simply "The Bard"). His surviving works consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part owner of the playing company the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He produced most of his known work between 1590 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories, genres he raised to the peak of sophistication and artistry by the end of the sixteenth century. Next he wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, producing plays, such as Hamlet, King Lear, and Macbeth, considered some of the finest in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies and collaborated with other playwrights.

Insightful reviews

Elnaz yousefi: ????? ????? ?? ?? ?? ???? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?? ?????? ??? ?? ?????!

Keith: In the sonnets, the man of all ages becomes the man of an age – a very particular, very stylized age. The best sonneteer? Perhaps so. But it was a form that was already going out of style by the time his sonnets were published.

Shakespeare is his typical playful and irreverent self in the best of the sonnets. He remains a master of the metaphor, and a refined, nuanced thinker beyond compare.

But the sonnets are not my thing. The great voice that stormed at the universe in Lear, that explored the mad corners of the mind in Macbeth, that stared into the nihilistic abyss in Hamlet: Where is this poet in the sonnets?

He's rarely to be glimpsed. Instead, he's advising a young man to marry. He's dotting upon a young boy's good looks. He's affronted at every slight. He's insecure about his age. He's pouting because his mistress is unfaithful.

In a different time, Shakespeare would have been a different poet – and perhaps not a playwright at all. We are the product of our age, and few can rise above the fashionable limits of our time and place. What other Shakespeares might have existed had they lived in a different time? What of Shakespeare had he only written sonnets?

Malak Alrashed: *"Let me not to the marriage of true minds*

*Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O no; it is an ever-fixed mark,
That looks on tempests, and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.*

I am sorry, but I find myself speechless and unable to describe the beauty of Shakespeare. He's certainly my favorite English poet; and it's not only because of his language, but rather for his depth and perspective. The way he sees the world, love, revenge, hatred, is both complex and abstract. When it's a Shakespeare love sonnet, then it's a dynamic compelling kind of love. A sickness, a curse. There's no middle ground. Cold feelings do not exist. Everything is heightened, fresh, sharp, a first experience. In another fair world, Shakespeare would have been my husband.... or maybe my prisoner; there isn't much of a difference, really. I shall have him either way.

Deepthi: All i would like to do now's lie at the grass, and make moony-eyes on the moon!

Lola: i eventually complete Romeo and Juliet in my Brit Lit category (thank God!) Oddly enough, while i used to be seeking to get away Shakespeare, i discovered this e-book of his sonnets at a rummage sale. It used to be easily intended to be. this is the object i do not like approximately Shakespeare. He is going on and on in regards to the great thing about his love, yet that is all he talks about. Is she just a lovely face? Does she have a feeling of humor? Is she kind? Smart? whatever yet beautiful. notwithstanding this does not cut back the wonderful thing about his writing, I do ponder whether Shakespeare ever knew the kind of love that wasn't superficial. somehow I doubt it. there has been one sonnet I loved, and it certainly stood out from the remainder of them. the following it is: "My mistress' eyes are not anything just like the sun; Coral is way extra red, than her lips red: If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun; If hairs be wires, black wires develop on her head. I have obvious roses damasked, purple and white, But no such roses see I in her cheeks; And in a few perfumes is there extra delight Than within the breath that from my mistress reeks. I like to pay attention her speak, but good I know That tune hath a much more unique sound: I furnish I by no means observed a goddess go, My mistress, while she walks, treads at the ground: And but by way of heaven, i believe my love as rare, As any she belied with fake compare." i like this sonnet simply because Shakespeare's eventually getting at a love with depth. His love is not beautiful, is not perfect, yet this love is worthy greater than different different types of love simply because it is real. the failings make it real. great e-book to skim at leisure. i assume that suggests I recommend.

Alan: Over my years of teaching, I've got memorized a pair dozen of those sonnets, on my morning walks. A few I discovered in a two-mile walk, like the only one on his personal writing, "Why is my verse so barren of recent pride?" (76). Others I've got needed to re-memorize at any time when I educate it, like "Some glory of their birth, a few of their skill," (91). Their imbedded mnemonics range greatly. While I've got required Shakespeare classes to memorize a couple, scholars may frequently decide very tricky ones, no longer figuring out they diversified so. They just increase with familiarity as do many recognized poems. Ease of memorization is one criterion of poetic greatness, notwithstanding it is also a functionality of private event and obsessions. Total those sonnets is probably not as effortless to memorize as are Dickinson's poems, or lots of WB Yeats's, say "Under Ben Bulbin." Or Herbert's "Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright." yet as Will (his punning sonnet identify for himself within the later ones) says of his personal writing, "That each observe doth virtually inform my name" (76). This is also acknowledged of Dickinson's and a few of Yeats's. Shakespeare provides that this verse name-telling additionally indicates the family tree of the verse, "Showing their birth...." In that way, those sonnets develop into ads--for themselves. Political admen, devour your hearts out.

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