



Shakespeare A to Z: The Essential Reference to His Plays, His Poems, His Life and Times, and More

Charles Boyce, David Allen White

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-What famous essayist insisted that Shakespeare's play were unfit for performance?-Which two plays center on the Hundred Years' War?

-In which scene of "Romeo and Juliet" does the nurse report--falsely--that Juliet is dead and thus seal Romeo's tragic fate?

The answers are easily found in "Shakespeare A To Z," the only single-volume reference to virtually everything one needs--or wants--to know about the Bard. Wonderfully informative, this comprehensive work includes 3,000 entries and 50 illustrations covering:

-EVERY PLAY, including scene-by-scene synopses, critical commentary, sources, textual commentary, and theatrical history

-EVERY CHARACTER, from Aaron to Young Talbot, including those without speaking parts

-THE POEMS, including the sonnets and long works in verse

-ACTORS, PRODUCERS, AND DIRECTORS, including William Kempe, Charles Laughton, Sarah Bernhardt, Sir Laurence Olivier, and others who have brought the plays and characters to life over the centuries

-PLACES, real and imaginary, important to Shakespeare's life and works

-THEATRICAL AND LITERARY TERMS that relate to the plays and poetry

-CONTEMPORARIES OF SHAKESPEARE, including family members, friends and colleagues, patrons, and historical figures

-AUTHORS, SCHOLARS, AND PUBLISHERS of Shakespeare's works, critical studies, and histories - and much more, all in easily accessible encyclopedic format

Shakespeare A to Z: The Essential Reference to His Plays, His Poems, His Life and Times, and More Details

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Kristina Leonard says

Indispensable....

Rozonda says

I owe this book more than I'll ever be able to repay. It helped me to love and enjoy Shakespeare even more , and it also helped me to get better marks in my university career (and some fo my friends' too- it was often borrowed) In fact it led such a harsh life I had to throw the tattered copy away and buy a new one, which I lined this time. (now I have an e-copy)Even if sometimes it is a bit snobbish (not including Kenneth Branagh, for example, who is despectively alluded to in the Henry V entry) and repetitive, it remains a highly valuable tool for students and Shakespeare lovers. Plays, characters, actors and actresses, theatres, productions, critics- everything is here.

Jessica says

I find this especially helpful if I'm going to re-read a play. It helps me remember names, etc., so that I can get more out of the nth read.

Kathy says

FYI, I am pretty much always using this book for reference, which is why it's perpetually on my "Currently Reading" shelf.

This is the best guide to Shakespeare I've ever seen. The only problem is that I'll look something up, and there are so many cross-references that three hours later I'm like, "What? Where did the time go?" If you need to grab a quick reference and are easily distracted, this may not be the book for you!

Each time I read one of his plays or other works, I read the synopsis and history in here first to get a more complete understanding. Asimov's book is good for that, too, but it's not nearly as objective. Asimov's personal opinions (and sometimes the inherent sexism of his generation) are woven into his narrative.

Sadia Mansoor says

The A to Z about Shakespeare is just a click away :)

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