



Shakespeare's Sonnets (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series)

By William Shakespeare

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'The annotation is consistently thoughtful and well judged, giving plenty of precise help with lexical and syntactical problems, and offering valuable verbal and cultural analogues from contemporary literature' 'No edition of these difficult and controversial poems will command agreement at all points, but this must now be the edition of first resort' Paul Hammond, Review of English Studies 'sharpens our focus on the documentary record of the Sonnets, and gives the best scholarly account yet of some of its words.' Alastair Fowler, Times Literary Supplement "The new edition...edited by Katherine Duncan-Jones, is the clearest, most complete and up-to-date there is. She is the first editor for general readers not to mumble when dealing with the homoerotic aspect. Under her meticulous direction, the sequence opens out like a magical garden, its beauties enhanced, its mysterious prospects illuminated." Duncan Fallowell, The Independent "It is Duncan-Jones's intention as scholar and critic to confront the issue of sexuality which Kerrigan and other editors have consistently side-stepped...Hers is an edition which uniquely makes the Sonnets issue from the body's moods as well as the mind's." Tom Paulin, London Review of Books "This new edition, handsome, crisp in annotation, and rich in historical detail, shows that the Sonnets are effectively Shakespeare's life's work...Its most radical claim is not the familiar one that the poems are homosexual, but that Shakespeare authorised their publication." Evening Standard

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9-Up The simplicity and elegance of Shakespeare's lyric poetry is apparent in this audio rendition. All 154 sonnets are read in order, each one identified by its number which corresponds with the CD track number, making it easy to locate a particular choice. This form of poetry is characterized by 14 lines of rhymed, iambic pentameter in a scheme of three quatrains followed by a couplet. British narrator, David Butler, reads the sonnets as the form dictates, recognizing the endstops and adjusting his tone to the turn of the couplet. His voice is liltingly romantic with a limited range of emotion. In an afterward, Butler explains how the first 126 sonnets are addressed to a young man, in general, and the last two addressed to Cupid. The "dark lady" of the other sonnets is a mystery as is the person or patron for whom the collection was written. This information is fascinating, and students would benefit by listening to it first. There is no pause or analysis between sonnets and no accompanying text, suggesting that teachers will best use the CDs as an audio reference. Shakespeare's well-loved verse is in an ideal format for teachers to use as a class resource.

Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY

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From Library Journal

Since we will never hear tapes of Keats or Shakespeare reading, and several recordings by actors exist (e.g., John Keats: Selected Poems, Blackstone Audio, 1993; Sonnets by William Shakespeare, Recorded Bks., 1990), we must judge these tapes by the actors' performances. In John Keats: Poems, Douglas Dodge modulates his voice beautifully to capture the slightly varied emotions of many poems. This well-edited recording contains Keats's most famous works: "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," "The Eve of St. Agnes," "Ode to a Nightingale," "On a Grecian Urn," along with many lesser-known short poems such as "To Mrs. Reynolds' Cat" that exhibit the poet's more fanciful side. Reading all of Shakespeare's sonnets written between 1593 and 1601, actor Simon Callow conveys the dramatic potential not often recognizable in other recordings. With the exception of a few sonnets addressing the muse, anyone unfamiliar with Shakespeare's works could easily believe these were selected monologs from various plays. Pausing briefly between poems, Callow's tone shifts enough to create new characterizations for every sonnet. Both tapes are recommended for smaller collections and essential for larger ones.

Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New York

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About the Author

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616) wrote 37 plays. *King Lear* and *Macbeth* are widely considered his finest and most popular. They are, perhaps, the most frequently produced works on the planet.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Levin:

The ability that you get from Shakespeare's Sonnets (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series) is a more deep you excavating the information that hide in the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Shakespeare's Sonnets (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series)

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