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opening extract from

The Life and Times of William Shakespeare

Written by

Kristen McDermott, PhD and Ari Berk, PhD

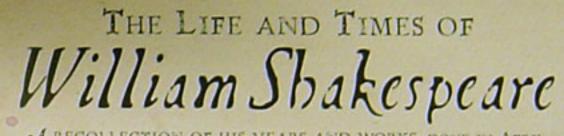
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A RECOLLECTION OF HIS YEARS AND WORKS, DONE IN APRIL THE YEERE OF OURE LORD 1612 UPON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM LOSCOOK TO RETIREMENT IN STRUTTORD-UTOSC - AFOSK



WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY KRISTEN MCDERMOTT, PHD AND ARI BERK, PHD

INCLUDING EXTRACTS FROM THE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, GENTLEMAN AND POET

ILLUSTRATED

The Templar Company

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THE TEMPES

The King's Maiesties BERVANTS # the Globe

Publisher's Note

Abbrevials William Shakespears to you of the mean factors. age in English harrowy Lette is known about his Life,

As it was performed for the ruptiall solemnities Frederick of Bohemia 9 53 103 11 Ch 319 the PRINCESS ELIZABETA

with je Tempest enacted upon the s complete with fireworks full

together with a classice of symphes and sicking this week parties and sicking this way

and with ye pleasant conceited foolery of the moister-Calibano and the clownes William Shakespeare boy, the eldest son in an ordinary family of farmers and tradesmen, who lived in an ordinary little town called Stratford-upon-Avon, in the green heart of England. He was born in 1564, and the world he lived in was, in many ways, both like and unlike our own, four-and-a-half centuries later.

Little Will was the especially cherished child of John and Mary Shakespeare; his parents' first two babies, Joan and Margaret, both died in infancy, and William himself lived through a particularly had outbreak of the bubonic plague. His parents were lucky compared to many others: of their eight children. five - Gilbert, another Joan, Richard, Edmund, and William - lived to adulthood. (William himself suffered the loss of his only son, Hamnet, in 1596.)

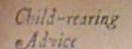
Childhood Days & Stratford Ways

WHEN THAT I WAS AN A LITTLE TINY BOY. TWELFTH NIGHT, 3.1

I may dwell in London, the greatest city I in Christendom, but in south I remain a country lad right enough, who walked the tame lanes and bedgerown as you, dearest, and your sister Susannah and your poor brother Hamnet. My earliest memories are of May Day and barrent home, railing this of straw upon the River Avon and termenting the green in the comfields. I loved well the forest of Arden, named for my mother's family. To myself and my adventurous siblings. Foan, Gilbert, Dickon and Ned, it was a magical wood where the fair falk watched in set our little plays of hunters, of pirates and of course, of Robin Hood and his Merry Men.



Small wonder my plays are filled with country falk - the shepherds, the berdimen, the tillers and the sicklemen of my youth. Listen carefully - the witest of my characters are bard-handed men', who know the ways of the land and the people who live in and on it. They may speak roughly, but they speak true.



Some old saires advice from thy mether's household bank though I Is not reell builing harr's bearer for ther - and beenes known thou west not those to recited

M The finest mylks comes from a wet warrs who is not combid. or equipt eyed, nor with a misshapen ness or bodie, or with Harks ill forested took or with styaking breeth M A suiting shifts should be green here's brains

reduced to jetly

M Thank-raikers should be off red a piece of liquories root to mouth.

M If the childr will not step orging, trye placing it in a freely dagge hale in the ground

M for a shille that is eleve to speaks, sub its tangue with heavy, sell and frankynismis



John Shakespeare was prosperous and well-liked during his son's early years. He served as an alderman of their comfortable town and was even the high bailiff, or mayor, for a term. He also had the enviable post of town ale-taster. John was rich enough to send William to school, and to afford a large two-storey house with a vegetable garden. His wife's family owned several farms nearby, where William probably played and learned many of the country customs that are described in his plays.

John Shakespeare worked hard for a living, but he had hopes that his bright and imaginative son William would grow up to be someone special.



Fishing on the Avon

All, cured Anna, error of my Leasant Year were in my mind when I made my beautiful Cleopatra an avid febermenan. Gree as mise sayin well to the siner there. Me meric slower for all I will betry Trues-finid fides so healed best shall parer There day lower and, or I here then sy. I'll ver all had more rangle Action to Chapter, 28

I fish only in the waters of memory now, but usen I will tickle treate in our own fresh stream once more.



VIRTIGAS - THOSE IN HOSE PLACES ON THE LOWEY AND RELEASE

Shepherd's Calendar

Elmal Speace, the great part, you in most some riches of depletels and milkmails in the tracker parts of his Shopherd's Calindar. However, they bear little likeness to the bearts Nilled felt I know Do farie govern or piping pastorals for my mighboom - givethem a down and filldle, plenty of ale and the there can go hange.



Home a bick when the will these blown When water and the milling minist grown, Quite pro-compied with locates wonfline With reset and own out with eplastin. A & On the same Dight : Drain 21