



The Tragedy of Romeo And Juliet: Folger Edition (Folger Shakespeare Library)

By William Shakespeare

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Excerpt from Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet

This edition of Romeo and Juliet, first published in 1879, is now thoroughly revised on the same general plan as its predecessors in the new series.

While I have omitted most of the notes on textual variations, I have retained a sufficient number to illustrate the curious and significant differences between the first and second quartos. Among the many new notes are some calling attention to portions of the early draft of the play - some of them very bad - which Shakespeare left unchanged when he revised it.

The references to Dowden in the notes are to his recent and valuable edition of the play, which I did not see until this of mine was on the point of going to the printer. The quotation on page 288 of the Appendix is from his Shakspere: His Mind and Art, which, by the way, was reprinted in this country at my suggestion.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

William Shakespeare was born circa 23 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England and died 23 April 1616. An exact date of birth is unknown; however it is known he was baptized on 26 April 1564. Given historians cause to believe 23 April to be his date of birth. It also made factoring his age much simpler. William was a playwright, poet, and modestly successful businessman. Very little information exists on the early life of the man known today as the “Bard of Avon.” At a young age William became an actor in the Lord Chamberlain’s Men theatrical company. It is unclear what inspired him to step off the stage and pick up the quill and parchment, but the world owes much thanks. Shakespeare spent the next twenty years writing works that have inspired the public and have been performed on the stage (and in the last century, film and television) for well over 400 years. William Shakespeare is best known for his plays and is commonly considered the greatest dramatist of all time. Many scholars debate whether all 37 known plays he is credited for were actually written by Shakespeare. His works include other such plays as Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Macbeth.

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