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SHAKESPEARE: THE JACOBEOAN PLAYS

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First published 1994 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-44258-6   ISBN 978-1-349-23405-9 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-23405-9

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

Typeset by Pure Tech Corporation, Pondicherry, India

For Penelope –
'Your acts are queens'

It is a trew old saying, That a King is as one set
on a stage, whose smallest actions and gestures all
the people gazingly do behold. . .

—James I, *Basilikon Doron*, Book III (1603)

On the Life of Man

What is our life? a play of passion,
Our mirth the music of division,
Our mothers' wombs the tyring houses be,
Where we are dressed for this short Comedy,
Heaven the Judicious sharp spectator is,
That sits and marks still who doth act amisse,
Our graves that hide us from the searching Sun,
Are like drawn curtains when the play is done,
Thus march we playing to our latest rest,
Only we die in earnest, that's no jest.

—Sir Walter Raleigh (1612)

Contents

<i>Editor's Preface</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Note Regarding Shakespearean Quotations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 Shakespeare's Jacobean Plays	17
2 <i>Measure for Measure</i> : 'A Little Brief Authority'	39
3 <i>Othello</i> : 'A Pageant to Keep Us in False Gaze'	61
4 <i>King Lear</i> : 'O! See, See'	85
5 <i>Macbeth</i> : 'Double, Double'	108
6 <i>Coriolanus</i> : 'Author of Himself'	130
7 <i>The Winter's Tale</i> : 'Awake Your Faith'	153
8 <i>The Tempest</i> : 'Something Rich and Strange'	175
<i>Epilogue</i>	198
<i>Notes</i>	200
<i>Bibliography</i>	209
<i>Index</i>	213

Acknowledgements

Over the inordinately long time I needed to write this book I acquired many obligations. Some are acknowledged in my notes, but others merit a different form of acknowledgement. Bruce King, general editor of the 'English Dramatists' series, was extremely patient as he waited for a very slow process to reach completion, as were the editors at the publishers with whom I was privileged to work: Beverley Tarquini, Caroline Egar, Alison Kelly, and Cathryn Tanner. Michigan State University provided an All-University Research Grant without which the demands on their patience would have been even more severe. I also had the benefit in this – as in all of my work (and much else) – of the friendship and knowledge of Randal Robinson and Douglas Peterson, valued colleagues at Michigan State.

All errors and shortcomings in this book are my responsibility, but they are fewer than they would otherwise be because Michael Friedman and Craig Bernthal kindly read parts of it in draft, and because Hillary Nunn assisted with the copy-editing, proof-reading and indexing. Barbara Hodgdon, who read and in some cases re-read virtually every word in this book as it was being written, provided generous help that was not only invaluable but also essential.

My daughter Lucy Mercedes Bassnett-McGuire, who also read parts of this book, repeatedly provided encouragement – sometimes in person, more frequently (alas) via trans-Atlantic phone calls – for which I am deeply grateful. My wife Penelope Victor, whom I met when this book was first taking shape, bore us a son well before it was finished. While Emmet is the greatest of the many gifts she has

given to and shared with me, the truth is that without her insight, tact, humour, assistance, and full love, I could not have completed this book.

Note Regarding Shakespearean Quotations

For the following Shakespearean plays I have quoted from the most recent Arden Edition of each: *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Coriolanus*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Measure for Measure*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, and *The Winter's Tale*. The bibliography provides details of publication for each of those editions. Quotations from all other Shakespearean plays are from *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* (1992, fourth edition), edited by David Bevington and published by Harper Collins (New York).

When quoting from Quarto or Folio versions of Shakespearean plays, I have used *Shakespeare's Plays in Quarto: A Facsimile Edition of Copies Primarily from the Henry E. Huntington Library* (1981), edited by Michael J. B. Allen and Kenneth Muir (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press) and *The Norton Facsimile: The First Folio of Shakespeare* (1968), edited by Charlton Hinman (New York: Norton; London: Paul Hamlyn). In those quotations, the Renaissance long 's' has been changed to modern 's' and u/v and i/j have been normalised in accord with modern practices.