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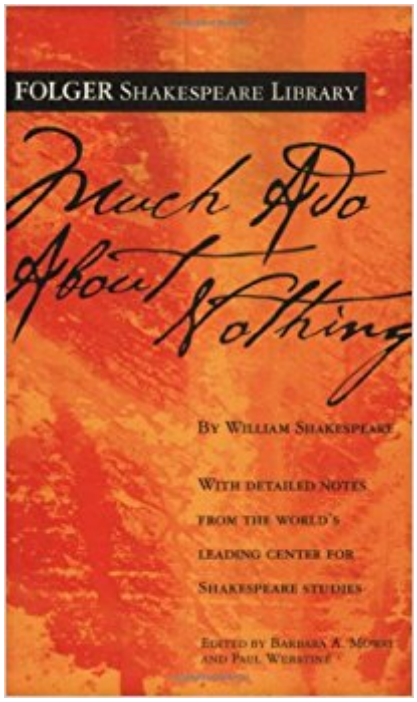
Much Ado About Nothing (Folger Shakespeare Library)



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Synopsis

Much Ado About Nothing includes two quite different stories of romantic love. Hero and Claudio fall in love almost at first sight, but an outsider, Don John, strikes out at their happiness. Beatrice and Benedick are kept apart by pride and mutual antagonism until others decide to play Cupid. The authoritative edition of Much Ado About Nothing from The Folger Shakespeare Library, the trusted and widely used Shakespeare series for students and general readers, includes: -Freshly edited text based on the best early printed version of the play -Full explanatory notes conveniently placed on pages facing the text of the play -Scene-by-scene plot summaries -A key to the playÃ¢â ¬â„¢s famous lines and phrases -An introduction to reading ShakespeareÃ¢â ¬â„¢s language -An essay by a leading Shakespeare scholar providing a modern perspective on the play -Fresh images from the Folger Shakespeare LibraryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vast holdings of rare books -An annotated guide to further reading Essay by Gail Kern Paster The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is home to the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s largest collection of ShakespeareÃ¢â ¬â„¢s printed works, and a magnet for Shakespeare scholars from around the globe. In addition to exhibitions open to the public throughout the year, the Folger offers a full calendar of performances and programs. For more information, visit Folger.edu.

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Customer Reviews

"...a much-needed and welcome addition to Shakespeare resources." Choice"...an indispensable resource for theatre historians, dramaturgs, directors, or performers." Studies in English Literature

1500-1900"This book could also be very useful to a student of gender, history, and language, especially its detailed infromation on lines added and cut, on treatments of the play’s cuckoldry humor, and on the critics’ anxious iteration of such key binaries as sharp/soft, wit/feeling, salt/sweet, and mannishness/womanliness. I do recommend this book for anyone trying to piece together information about the performance history of the play, especially those interested in Victorian and Edwardian productions. Those who are attempting to chart shifts in myths of gender as they shift over the longue durÃƒÂ©e of culture, or who are researching particulat productions or players, will find this edition rich, intriguing, sometimes frustrating, but always infomative." Shakespeare Quarterly --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A revised edition of the Arden Third Series play, edited by leading scholar Claire McEachern. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

My problem with the Kindle Bantam Classic edition of Othello is that there are no footnotes at the bottom of each page. This means no immediate vocab definitions or comprehension aids. I bought the Kindle edition because my old Signet paperback Othello is yellow with age, plus tiny font. (I’m rereading Othello before watching the live performance starring Blair Underwood and Richard Thomas.) Not being a scholar of Elizabethan English, I do need annotative help with the vocab and idioms. So unfortunately, it’s back to the old, barely readable but annotated Signet print version for me.

This book is in awesome shape and arrived just in the nick of time. It even has footnotes to help you to understand the old english in the book which is great help to further understand the book.

Really helpful to read the contemporary English version next to the Shakespeare text; allows you to understand the play so much better and consequently appreciate the old English wording so much more completely!!

If a man do not erect in this age his own tomb ere he dies, he shall live no longer in monument than the bell rings and the widow weeps.

These are good to have if you are teaching Shakespeare to students who are first time readers. It is a good companion piece to the real-thing, but in no way replaces a proper reading of the Bard.

I love this book. I am currently using it to teach my students Othello. It makes the translation much easier; its a blessing. The book also seems very sturdy and the pages are extremely white so you see the words clearly. The book provides a side by side translation that accompanies the original Othello script. Who wouldn't want this?

This is a Shakespearean Comedy of Manners from before the genre was even really a fully developed thing, featuring love affairs, a revenge plot, some humorous incompetence, a faked death, and much more. I'm not a big comedy fan, but this is certainly a good example of the genre at the time from which it came, and I actually quite enjoyed it. When it comes to the works of Shakespeare as a whole, I would say that this is a less memorable example, but definitely has some positives going for it as well. For one, it's far less well-known than many of his more famous works, so it doesn't feel familiar as you read it. The characters and plot also tend to grow on you, even as the language isn't quite so memorable, and the plotting and mistaken identities aspects are always good plot points, whether you're speaking of today or centuries ago. As to the edition itself, I found it to be greatly helpful in understanding the action in the play. It has a layout which places each page of the play opposite a page of notes, definitions, explanations, and other things needed to understand that page more thoroughly. While I didn't always need it, I was certainly glad to have it whenever I ran into a turn of language that was unfamiliar, and I definitely appreciated the scene-by-scene summaries. Really, if you want to or need to read Shakespeare, an edition such as this is really the way to go, especially until you get more accustomed to it.

Christ I mean seriously who the hell am I to critique Shakespeare? If had a way to "skip reviews" this would probably be one of those I'd hit. Anything I could say about the work would feel woefully contrived and without merit.The "brass tacks" on this from a lay-mans perspective is it's fantastic but seriously it's Shakespeare and while I haven't read the breadth of his work I haven't regretted reading one yet. The translation/interpretation was fine for me (not an English major ergo haven't read another translation to compare it to).Honestly it's a safe bet and solid read if you have time

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