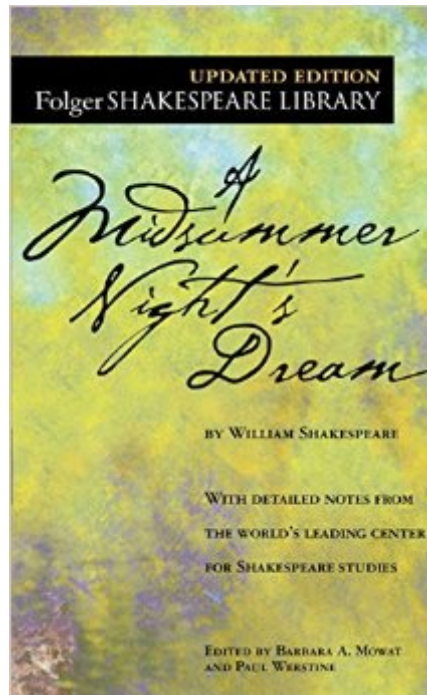


The book was found

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Folger Shakespeare Library)



Synopsis

In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare stages the workings of love. Theseus and Hippolyta, about to marry, are figures from mythology. In the woods outside Theseus's Athens, two young men and two young women sort themselves out into couples—but not before they form first one love triangle, and then another. Also in the woods, the king and queen of fairyland, Oberon and Titania, battle over custody of an orphan boy; Oberon uses magic to make Titania fall in love with a weaver named Bottom, whose head is temporarily transformed into that of a donkey by a hobgoblin or "puck" • Robin Goodfellow. Finally, Bottom and his companions ineptly stage the tragedy of "Pyramus and Thisbe." • The authoritative edition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 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 play's famous lines and phrases
- An introduction to reading Shakespeare's language
- An essay by a leading Shakespeare scholar providing a modern perspective on the play
- Fresh images from the Folger Shakespeare Library's vast holdings of rare books
- An annotated guide to further reading

Essay by Catherine Belsey

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is home to the world's largest collection of Shakespeare'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.

Book Information

Series: Folger Shakespeare Library

Mass Market Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; unknown edition (January 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743477545

ISBN-13: 978-0743477543

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.7 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (528 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,883 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Comedy #8 in Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Dramas & Plays

Customer Reviews

There are many reasons for the popularity of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", not the least among them is the almost unique joining of the humorous misuse of language (by the tradesman actors) and the utter beauty of language and expression (by Puck, Oberon, and Titania). One usually gets a farce of language or an attempt at the sublime. Here the music of the two enriches both. How can one put together these four disparate plotlines into such a wonderful whole? The quartet of lovers and their mixed and varied attentions forms the basis of the plot in the comedy and it is a delightful enough farce. The squabble of Demetrius and Lysander over Hermia while Helena pines over Demetrius, Oberon and Titania's argument over one of her servants and Oberon's use of Puck to manipulate Titania's affections including Puck's mistaken application of Oberon's potion to Lysander's eyes, the pending marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta, and the wonderfully, magically awful play being put on by the tradesman for the nobles. Putting all this into a wonderful whole is an achievement that I believe is unmatched. I do want to say that this play has suffered a great deal in our sex obsessed age. We have foisted on this play an eroticism that it does not claim for itself nor display. While the "adult" couples (Theseus & Hippolyta, Oberon & Titania) interact and talk in ways that include that aspect of their lives, the youthful couples always talk and act in ways that are concerned with propriety and modesty. Bottom is hardly the lust blinded brute depicted in modern productions. He is much more interested in eating and chatting with his Fairy friends than Titania.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Folger Shakespeare Library) Shakespeare Set Free: Teaching Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth & Midsummer Night (Folger Shakespeare Library) Dreams: Discover the Meaning of Your Dreams and How to Dream What You Want - Dream Interpretation, Lucid Dreaming, and Dream Psychology (+BONUS) (Dream Analysis, Dream Meanings, Lucid Dream) Midsummer Night's Dream: Oxford School Shakespeare (Oxford School Shakespeare Series) King Lear (Folger Ed.) (New Folger Library Shakespeare) A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare Made Easy (Paperback)) A Midsummer Night's Dream (Arden Shakespeare: Second Series) William Shakespeare's a Midsummer Night's Dream A Midsummer Night's Dream (Barnes & Noble Shakespeare) The Complete Works and Apocrypha of William Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet and More (52 plays, 154 sonnets and More) Twelfth Night (Folger Shakespeare Library) A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 64 (Opera in Three Acts). By Benjamin

Britten. Edited By Imogen Holst and Martin Penny. For Choral, Orchestra, Voice (Vocal Score). Bh
Stage Works. A Midsummer Night's Dream (Calla Editions) A Midsummer Night's Dream (Dover
Thrift Editions) Measure for Measure (Folger Shakespeare Library) Hamlet (Folger Library
Shakespeare) Macbeth (Folger Shakespeare Library) Romeo and Juliet (Folger Shakespeare
Library) The Tempest (Folger Shakespeare Library) Much Ado About Nothing (Folger Shakespeare
Library)

[Dmca](#)