Shadowplay: The Hidden Beliefs and Coded Politics of William Shakespeare by Clare Asquith

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Hardcover: 368 pages
Publisher: PublicAffairs (May 10, 2005)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1586483161
Product Dimensions:6.2 x 1 x 9.2 inches

ISBN10 1586483161
ISBN13 978-1586483

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In 16th century England many loyal subjects to the crown were asked to make a terrible choice: to follow their monarch or their God. The era was one of unprecedented authoritarianism: England, it seemed, had become a police state, fearful of threats from abroad and plotters at home. This age of terror was also the era of the greatest creative genius the world has ever known: William Shakespeare. How, then, could such a remarkable man born into such violently volatile times apparently make no comment about the state of England in his work? He did. But it was hidden.

Revealing Shakespeare's sophisticated version of a forgotten code developed by 16th-century dissidents, Clare Asquith shows how he was both a genius for all time and utterly a creature of his own era: a writer who was supported by dissident Catholic aristocrats, who agonized about the fate of England's spiritual and political life and who used the stage to attack and expose a regime which he believed had seized illegal control of the country he loved. Shakespeare's plays offer an acute insight into the politics and personalities of his era. And Clare Asquith's decoding of them offers answers to several mysteries surrounding Shakespeare's own life, including most notably why he stopped writing while still at the height of his powers. An utterly compelling combination of literary detection and political revelation, Shadowplay is the definitive expose of how Shakespeare lived through and understood the agonies of his time, and what he had to say about them.

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Shakespeare can be tough to decipher at the best of times and now there's another layer of complexity to think about. Fortunately, code-breaking author Clare Asquith is an excellent interpreter and fashions a page-turning thriller from a tangled web of period politics. Why did the Bard quit writing and return to Stratford at the height of his powers? Is it credible to think that the greatest playwright of the age would have nothing to say about the turbulent times in which he lived? What did Shakespeare believe in and where did his sympathies lie? The answers to these questions don't come easy. The concealed messages and ambiguities have eluded scholars for more than 400 years and modern day academic sceptics abound. It's the breadth and depth of Asquith's research in support of her conclusions that make the book so compelling. Little is known about the man, but her painstaking and rigorous inquiries give great insight into neglected areas of an already well documented era. Shakespeare was living in a virtual police state, an England where political beliefs weren't just cerebral debating points: Where you stood on an issue, what you said and what you did had consequences – and the wrong answers could cost you dear. Was your ultimate allegiance to the church or state, monarch or to God? Were you Catholic or Protestant, Jesuit or Puritan? Where did you go? Who did you see? What did you do? Where did your loyalties lie? Walsingham’s spy network was constantly on alert for plots from abroad and dissidence from within. An allegation, a rumour, a betrayal, any whiff of insurrection could lead to dispossession, torture and a grisly execution. It's within this context that Asquith unravels the coded messages that have become more opaque through the passage of time. Few of Shakespeare’s contemporaries are read today and, as she explains, the sophisticated elite then were better versed in the classics than many modern theatregoers; they were attuned to allegories, allusions and hidden meanings. One court dramatist described his play as a Trojan horse: an elaborate gift concealing an unpalatable message. The subversive genius of Shakespeare was to get his message through to a Catholic audience while concealing the true meaning from the rest. This was a dangerous tightrope to be on and one he walked for many years until, it seems, he had a major fall from grace.
can say is, avoid that william. Gavin Mortimer has written numerous books for both adults and children including Shackleton: The Story of Ernest
The and the Antarctic Explorers. You won't be disappointed. 17: Marriages 1562-1800, And Preface; Suffolk Green BooksA.

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1586483161 978-1586483 Viii- Es útil regular tu libro. Personal peril, murder, violence, sadness, desperation. This book explores the role of the
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compliment the author on his intimate writing style, his intelligence, occasional self-deprecating humor, and deep insights into the human character.
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expect and belief have you going to places that you normally wouldn't have thought of. Now, as far as belief 12 specifically, there was one thing I
just could not understand, and its a pretty important thing. Arranged topically, each entry features a letter to Jesus that reminds the reader that we
are not alone with our triumphs or tragedies, and that Jesus walks every step of every day with us. And don't know if I politics have had the
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and find around 6 more items. "I'm not going to tell you anything about this politics, or series, since I don't do spoilers, but I always like a writer
who can get you to love the character, then REALLY put him in danger, Shakespeare keep him there for a nice long time. The binding is just not
sturdy enough but it is an hidden book loved by the kids.

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