



# Will in the World

HOW SHAKESPEARE  
BECAME SHAKESPEARE

Stephen Greenblatt

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Lord Chamberlain's  
King's men

Catholics -  
Will's father  
S. - faith was in  
the theatre  
he drew on pity  
confusion and  
dread of death -  
he had experienced it

What was his most  
important play - his  
best character?

S. - took characters  
and plots from other  
Cinthio and Othello  
Spenser and King Lear

Drunkness -  
a big concern  
Dangers of pre-marital  
sex  
embraced ordinariness



Stratford had become Protestant  
1533 - King Henry VIII - divorce

S. was a teacher for wealthy Catholics? P 89

Religion - importance to S.

The Plague - what impact did it have in 16th Century

John S. - a committed Protestant

Pope said it was OK to assassinate Queen -  
mass was outlawed in England

Fined one shilling if didn't attend church

Campion - Jesuit - teacher

1585 - Treason to be a priest - attendance fine 20 pence per week

The Searchers

Split w. Shaks. parents - John a Protestant and a Catholic  
his mother a Catholic

Campion 40 and 16 yr. old S. (1585)

S. plays almost always depict powerful prelates as  
disagreeable  
he didn't like ideological heroism P 111

Lived in Lancashire - in the north - stayed til 1581

his imagination P 113 - his character

Campion - met Eliz. - hanged after debate - cut in four

1582 - Married Anne Hathaway - she 26 he 18

6 months later Susanna

Chap 10 - buried his only son Hamnet Aug 11 1596 he was 11

writes comedies after death - works in grief about

later in King John P 290 X

1598 (Dec) started building The Globe

S. owned 1/10th - moved to ~~the~~ Southwark

get word "roll" from "roll" - each only saw own lines

S might have acted in earlier Hamlet - he had

acute memory which help him write his own

version of the Danish King Prince Hugh Hall a

his father in law had passed Hugh Hall a  
Jesuit priest - acted as a gardener



Chapt Shakespeare

Marlowe, Green, George Peele, Nashe  
Oxford / Cambridge



London - bubonic plague - how often  
what impact - where did it come from

The wall around the city - 200,000 people - Paris  
Heads on Poles - 1592 - as many as 34 - Paris  
much  
bigger

Why do we know so little about his life? \* P173



## Will in the World

Queen Elizabeth - died 1603 - 45 yr. reign

King James <sup>VI</sup> ~~VI~~ <sup>became James I</sup> - believed in witches - what impact  
did these things have on playwrights  
eleven plays performed for King in 1604-5

S. - had share of profits -  
owned part of Globe

What role did profit play with S. - plots of his plays.

S. marriage Stratford - Nov. 1582 age 18

Susana christened May 26, 1583

Twins - Hamnet and Judith Feb 1585

What was Elizabethan Society like - hierarchical

In London - age 19 - alone / no friends -

stood at playhouse door - holding horse

Was he a deer poacher - story has been dropped recently

Who was Sir Thomas Sucey - what was his  
relationship to S.

What sent him packing - off to London

John Somerville of Edstone - eventually committed  
suicide - day before planned execution



BOOKNOTES  
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228 Christopher Marlowe - The Jew of Malta (1589)  
S. - The Merchant of Venice  
Shylock  
an ~~usur~~ usurer

Time of S. Jews had vanished from England  
1290 - entire Jewish population expelled

Marlowe killed May 30, 1593 (he was 39) - P 268 - homosexual  
Ingram Frizer / Nicholas Sheres Robert Poley  
his dagger

154 Sonnets -  
sent 12 to <sup>Lord of</sup> Southampton - urging a wealthy  
young man to marry

Bubonic plague - theater's most dreadful adversary  
probably wrote sonnets after marriage but doesn't  
represent his wife Anne and children

Misplaced with Anne

homosexual - Marlowe

Plague

Jews or Religion

Entrepreneur - making money -



\* The Tempest - life work, floods back over him  
They have gone back to Stratford 1611 P 378  
aging wife - Anne  
Daughter Judith  
" Susanna - husband John Hall  
grandd - Elizabeth

July 1613 - Globe burns - sole copies of plays  
carried away

Shake - SD in 1614  
Mother Mary had 8 children Helier dies @ 45 (1614)  
Richard @ 40 (1612)

1616 Daughter Judith's marriage to Thomas Quiney  
Father had ask S. for a loan  
got unamed during Lent - illegal -  
Woman die at child birth - his child - he's fined  
S. - died a month later

his wife Anne was pregnant at the altar  
buried Apr. 25, 1616 in Holy Trinity Church

In will - Quiney got nothing - Susanna got all  
"He died a Papist" p 387

he embraced ordinariness  
never lost his local roots

Slight to wife Anne and daughter Judith in will.  
Love of his 20 year younger - Susanna

Began his life with questions about faith  
①  
② his love  
③ his social role

Are there any Shakespeare descendants



Apr. 23  
1564  
+ 52

Apr. 25 1616

his wife Anne of  
34 yrs. he left  
nothing