

Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen

By Victor Kiernan

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Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen By Victor Kiernan

'This book rests on a lifetime’s thinking about history. It helps us see Shakespeare in “a more realistic light”.’
Times Literary Supplement

Although Shakespeare is rightly celebrated for the continued relevancy of his plays and poetry today, we too often lose sight of the wider historical context which shaped his work. In *Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen*, Victor Kiernan shows that Shakespeare was profoundly sensitive to the great social and political upheavals of his age. Shakespeare's life coincided with the first challenges to the institution of monarchy, as well as far-reaching transformations in the social hierarchy.

By placing the plays within this context of an emerging modernity, Kiernan upends our perception of Shakespeare's writings. He shows that these social transformations, and especially the changing roles of women, are crucial to our understanding of the Comedies, in which the confusion of identity, disguise, and cross-dressing play a central role, while the Histories similarly reflect the demise of feudal allegiances and the development of the modern state.

Featuring a new introduction by Michael Wood, *Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen* provides a rich resource for both students of literature and for the general reader looking for new insight into the life of our greatest dramatist.

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Editorial Review

Review

“The strength of this book lies in the total view of political and social conditions of the period which underpins it. . . . Unlike so many other books on Shakespeare, it will not scare off the non-academic reader.” (*Guardian*)

“Victor Kiernan is one of the best historians of seventeenth-century England. And he is also a sensitive literary critic. The combination of these gifts makes his book a remarkable achievement. It will become a classic.”
(Christopher Hill)

“Kiernan’s detailed knowledge of the plays and the period they emerged from give an enormous authority to his analysis of the forces at work in them. He covers the entire canon, including the sonnets and the comedies but his analysis of the histories is central.”

(*Morning Star (UK)*)

About the Author

Victor Kiernan (1913-2009) was one of Britain’s most distinguished historians and professor of modern history at the University of Edinburgh.

Users Review

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This Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen without we understand teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen can bring when you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

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