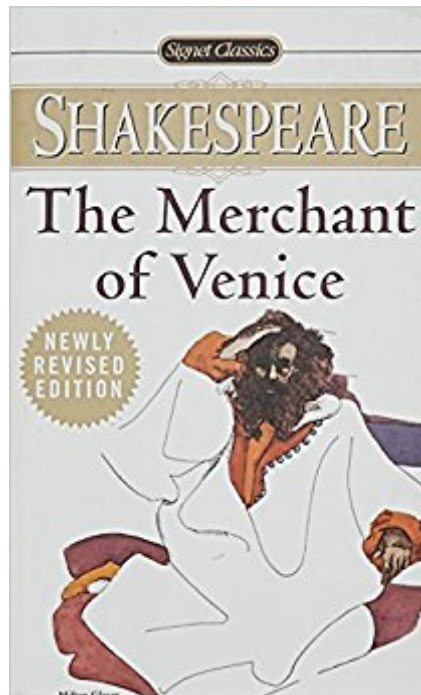




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# The Merchant Of Venice (Signet Classics)



## Synopsis

The Signet Classics edition of William Shakespeare's black comedy. A complex play that combines pathos and humor, *The Merchant of Venice* also introduces one of Shakespeare's most memorable villains, the Jewish moneylender Shylock, who famously demands a "pound of flesh" for what he is owed. This revised Signet Classics edition includes unique features such as:

- An overview of Shakespeare's life, world, and theater
- A special introduction to the play by the editor, Kenneth Myrick
- Notes on the sources of *The Merchant of Venice*
- Dramatic criticism from Nicholas Rowe, William Hazlitt, Elmer Edgar Stoll, and others
- A comprehensive stage and screen history of notable actors, directors, and productions
- Text, notes, and commentaries printed in the clearest, most readable text
- And more...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

... yours was by far the best product at the show! (LA Book Expo) -- Book Buyer  
Presenting literature in such an accessible and visually arresting way is, to my mind, a considerable achievement. Immensely appealing! -- Kenneth Branagh, actor/director  
This is the perfect gift, to give or receive. I've had mine framed, and draws people like a magnet -- Customer  
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

John Dover Wilson's *New Shakespeare*, published between 1921 and 1966, became the classic Cambridge edition of Shakespeare's plays and poems until the 1980s. The series, long since

out-of-print, is now reissued. Each work contains a lengthy and lively introduction, main text, and substantial notes and glossary. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Lies, deceit, treachery, poison, knives in the night, justified paranoia, guilt, revenge... it is all there, and more, in this classic story of how the lust for power can literally drive people crazy. It can also kill them. I first read this play of William Shakespeare as a high school reading assignment, the way the vast majority of people do. LoÃ¢â¬Â™ these many years later, IÃ¢â¬Â™ve undertaken a project of re-reading a lot of those H.S. reading assignments, including the plays of Shakespeare, in part to determine how much I missed the first time around, which, in two short words is normally: a lot. The play is set in Scotland. The king is Duncan. His not faithful lord, called Ã¢â¬ÂœMacbethÃ¢â¬Â in Scotland at the time, is Macbeth. And he has a wife who has become a symbol of all wives who relentlessly push their husbands to be Ã¢â¬Âœsuccessful,Ã¢â¬Â and who is normally addressed with the misnomer of Ã¢â¬ÂœLady.Ã¢â¬Â (Ã¢â¬ÂœThatÃ¢â¬Â™s no lady, thatÃ¢â¬Â™s my wifeÃ¢â¬Â...but I digress). As Cliff Notes will tell you, Duncan is murdered in his sleep, with those proverbial Ã¢â¬Âœlong knives.Ã¢â¬Â Macbeth skillfully diverts the blame to his body guards, who are conveniently also killed (a death man tells no tales) while also casting suspicion on DuncanÃ¢â¬Â™s sons, who have fled for their lives to further shores. How many times, throughout all the cultures and civilizations of the world, has this scenario basically unfolded? Throughout many of his plays Shakespeare utilizes elements from the ancient Greek plays, such as prophecy and a Ã¢â¬ÂœchorusÃ¢â¬Â that predicts future events, often esoterically. In this play, Shakespeare uses three witches around a cauldron, stirring, and if there is one line that most people remember from the play, it is the first line of their chorus: Ã¢â¬ÂœDouble, double, toil and trouble.Ã¢â¬Â A fellow reviewer noted a quip that ShakespeareÃ¢â¬Â™s plays are simply quotes strung together, a humorous way of noting that many portions of the play have entered the popular, albeit intellectual portion, of our culture. For example, after the first Iraq War (yeah, I know, it is hard to say which one was the first one now), the cover to the Ã¢â¬ÂœThe EconomistÃ¢â¬Â featured the line: Ã¢â¬ÂœWhen the hurlyburlyÃ¢â¬Â™s done.Ã¢â¬Â My first high school reading failed me, and I had no idea this was a reference to a line in MacbethÃ¢â¬Â™s opening scene, with the second line being: Ã¢â¬ÂœWhen the battleÃ¢â¬Â™s lost and won.Ã¢â¬Â And is that battle lost or won? Proving the enduring relevance of Shakespeare in so many settings, later in the same scene he writes: Ã¢â¬ÂœHer husbandÃ¢â¬Â™s to Aleppo gone, master oÃ¢â¬Â™ the Tiger.Ã¢â¬Â I havenÃ¢â¬Â™t seen Ã¢â¬ÂœThe EconomistÃ¢â¬Â use that line to refer to its British citizens going to fight for ISIS. Another quote that I remembered, and life experience has proven to be so true:

“Sleep that knits up the ravel’d sleeve of care.” Hum. Another quote that life experience proves true: “Lechery, sir, it provokes and unprovokes: it provokes the desire, but it takes away the performance. Therefore much drink may be said to be an equivocator with lechery: it makes him, and it mars him... makes him stand to and not stand to...” Finally, so that I literally don’t quote the entire play, another classic scene that personally resonated, due to my travels, was Lady Macbeth’s efforts to wash the blood off her hands, and she proclaims: “All the perfume of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.” Another excellent, still so relevant play of Shakespeare, that needs to read more than twice. 5-stars, plus.

My favorite inexpensive version for teaching my middle school students. I use the text and buy a few No Fear editions but I don’t share those until I’ve taught kids how to unpack the language with scanning and paraphrasing. If I wait for awhile, almost all of my students can decode the R and J in the original language. Great edition. Highly recommended.

We’ve had good luck with the "Made Easy" series... but this version of Macbeth is trickier than others in the series. Macbeth is a trickier play, I grant you. But the paraphrasing does not follow the Shakespeare as well as it could. Still, this is a great book. But because the kids are having a hard time with it, I whipped out the LEGO Shakespeare tragedies book and the Gareth Hinds Macbeth book to coax them along.

I think I understand Macbeth and the authorship better than I ever have. This book is a very thoroughly researched and well written account. It makes a convincing case that Edward de Vere was the author. I will never read or look at performances of Macbeth in the same way. If you are interested in Macbeth and Shakespeare, this is a must read. Frank.

I purchased these for my 9th grade English students. They love them! It is a wonderful resource for developing deeper understanding in all students. The visual connection to the text allows for more consistent pacing, strong comprehension of plot, and a well developed insight into character dynamics. The only issue with the text is that there is no indication on the page as to who each character is. As a class we pair the graphic novel with the play text so it is easy enough to make the connections visually, but inconvenient regardless. Overall, a great product. Basic quality that you would see from any graphic novel but an incredibly valuable resource for students to see and experience Shakespeare in a way that truly engages students and allows for a more genuine

interaction and conversation with and about Romeo and Juliet.

One of Shakespeare's finest works. After you read this, you'll find similarities to this plot in many other books and films. Interesting characters, fantastic story-line. Note that this play can be read/downloaded for free legally many places online, but I always prefer to have the physical book. It may be tough to get into Shakespeare at first, but after some persistence it pays off!

This is the way to read Shakespeare. You can choose to be purist and stay on the Olde English side, or glance over when it gets too confusing. I've never gotten so much out of reading the Bard. I now have quite a collection of the "No Fear" books.

This is my very favorite play written by the Bard. I say this having read most of Shakespeare's major plays, with the notable exceptions of King Lear and A Midsummer Night's Dream, but Macbeth outshines his others. Even Hamlet didn't carry the psychological nuances that this play did, and it reveals Shakespeare's understanding of human nature, and of how power corrupts. I won't say too much in the way of plot--this review is more for the sake of raving the Folger Library Edition--but the most excellent Netflix series "House of Cards" is based on it, if that gives you any hints. This edition was perfect for me. I was reading the play for fun, and the script was well organized and the hints unobtrusive. It was useful having the definitions and explanations on the left page rather than having to look through endnotes or some other such nonsense. It was both cheap and well translated, so I have absolutely no complaints!

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