



# Hamlet (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series)

By William Shakespeare

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## Hamlet (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series) By William Shakespeare

This self-contained, free-standing volume gives readers the Second Quarto text. In his illustrated introduction to the play's historical, cultural, and performance contexts, Neil Taylor presents a thorough survey of critical approaches to the play. He addresses the challenges faced in reading, editing, or acting a play with the depth of content and tradition that *Hamlet* possesses. He also establishes the historical and cultural context in which the play was written and explains the arguments about the merits and deficiencies of the First and Second Quarto and the First Folio. Taylor points to the many novelists, both men and women, whose work refers to or bears commonalities with *Hamlet*, to suggest an ongoing need to resolve "the continuing mystery of *Hamlet*" in print and on stage. An appendix contains the additional passages found only in the 1623 text, and other appendices on the editorial process, the traditions regarding the act division at 3.4/4.1, casting, and music are also included.

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### Review

"A pathbreaking edition, one that promises to change irrevocably our understanding of Shakespeare's greatest play."—**Professor James Shapiro, author of *1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare***

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"Stunning! There is absolutely no doubt about this being the text to buy . . . for those students who will be studying the play at university. This critical edition gives the reader the Second Quarto Text (1604-1605), annotated with intelligence and care, a wealth of historical and cultural references and a survey of different critical approaches to the play."—***The Use of English***

### About the Author

**Ann Thompson** is Professor of English Language and Literature and Head of the School of Humanities at King's College London. She has edited *The Taming of the Shrew*, and her other publications include *Shakespeare's Chaucer, Shakespeare, Meaning and Metaphor* (with John O. Thompson), and *Women Reading Shakespeare, 1660-1900* (with Sasha Roberts). She has also published widely on editing Shakespeare and Shakespeare's language. She is one of the general editors of the Arden Shakespeare.

**Neil Taylor** is Dean of Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Roehampton University. He has edited *Henry IV, Part 2* and (with Brian Loughrey) *Thomas Middleton: Five Plays*. He has also published widely on editing Shakespeare, Shakespeare on film, and other aspects of Renaissance and modern drama.

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