



Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns

By Pauline Kiernan

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Celebrating the Bard in all his bawdy glory, an eminent scholar puts the spotlight on the down-and-dirty sexual puns lurking in Shakespeare's work.

Everyone knows of his matchless understanding of the human condition, but we have been deprived for centuries of the full extent of one of Shakespeare's most brilliant dramatic devices. Restoring the saucy, often shocking meanings that lie beneath his words, *Filthy Shakespeare* gives modern readers a tour of the brothels, buggery, trannies, pimps, pricks, and other tawdry references populating his best-known works. The tension between sexual wordplay and politics provides a captivating historical backdrop, while the fascinating facts about life in Will's England make us see his masterworks in their gritty authenticity.

Revealing and riotously funny, *Filthy Shakespeare* is the perfect gift for anyone who wants to rediscover the master of the sexual pun at his most inventive.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It's a universal truth: sex sells. Giving the audience what they wanted in the 16th century, however, meant veiling it with puns, bon mots, slang and other tricks; fortunately, Shakespeare scholar Kiernan (Shakespeare's Theory of Drama) has taken the mystery out of the Bard's deceptively graphic passages in these frank translations from some of his most popular plays. Because most students read whitewashed versions (or because most high school instructors don't want to go there), even fans may be unaware of the degree to which, for instance, Iago (Shakespeare's "filthiest-minded character") employs sexually loaded language to rouse Roderigo's murderous lust in Act 5 of Othello: "Quick, quick, fear nothing... and fix most firm thy resolution" seems innocuous enough until Kiernan reveals that "nothing" means "vagina" and "resolution" means "balls." These blush-inducing transcripts render Shakespeare's work instantly contemporaneous; as it turns out, just the title of Much Ado About Nothing is easily as vulgar as anything uttered by gross-out moviemakers the Ferrelly brothers. Divided into chapters on lesbianism, homosexuality, virginity, sexual diseases, impotency, whores, pimps, brothels and other topics that shall here remain nameless, this jaw-dropping, giggle-inducing text proves both the Bard's enduring relevance and the fact that today's popular entertainment isn't nearly as debased as some might think.

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Review

...goes some way towards wiping out that sneaking feeling you often get when reading the Bards sublime verse that youre not quite in on the joke...fascinating.

"The Guardian"

...a bona-fide Shakespeare scholar...its all there: from balls to buggery, and from pricks to pubic hair.

"Guardian Unlimited"

...great fun

"Times Literary Supplement"

...a beautifully presented guide to Elizabethan filth.

"The Observer" (voted one of the Best Books of 2006)

...a work of scholarship dressed up, with brilliant design, as titillation.

"The Spectator"

...who knew the hidden sexual innuendos within the Bard's works! This new book has unearthed loads of them.

"Company Magazine"

aThis jaw-dropping, giggle-inducing text proved both the Bard's enduring relevance and the fact that today's most popular entertainment isn't nearly as debased as some might think.

a"Publishers Weekly"

aA romp of a read.

a"Associated Press"

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About the Author

Pauline Kiernan holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford, where she taught for many years, and is the author of the acclaimed *Shakespeare's Theory of Drama* (Cambridge University Press).

Users Review

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Patricia Smith:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As we know that book is very important usually. The book *Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns* had been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The reserve *Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns* is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with the book *Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns*. You never sense lose out for everything when you read some books.

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As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Leon King:

Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing *Filthy Shakespeare: Shakespeare's Most Outrageous Sexual Puns* however doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial contemplating.

Kathy Norvell:

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