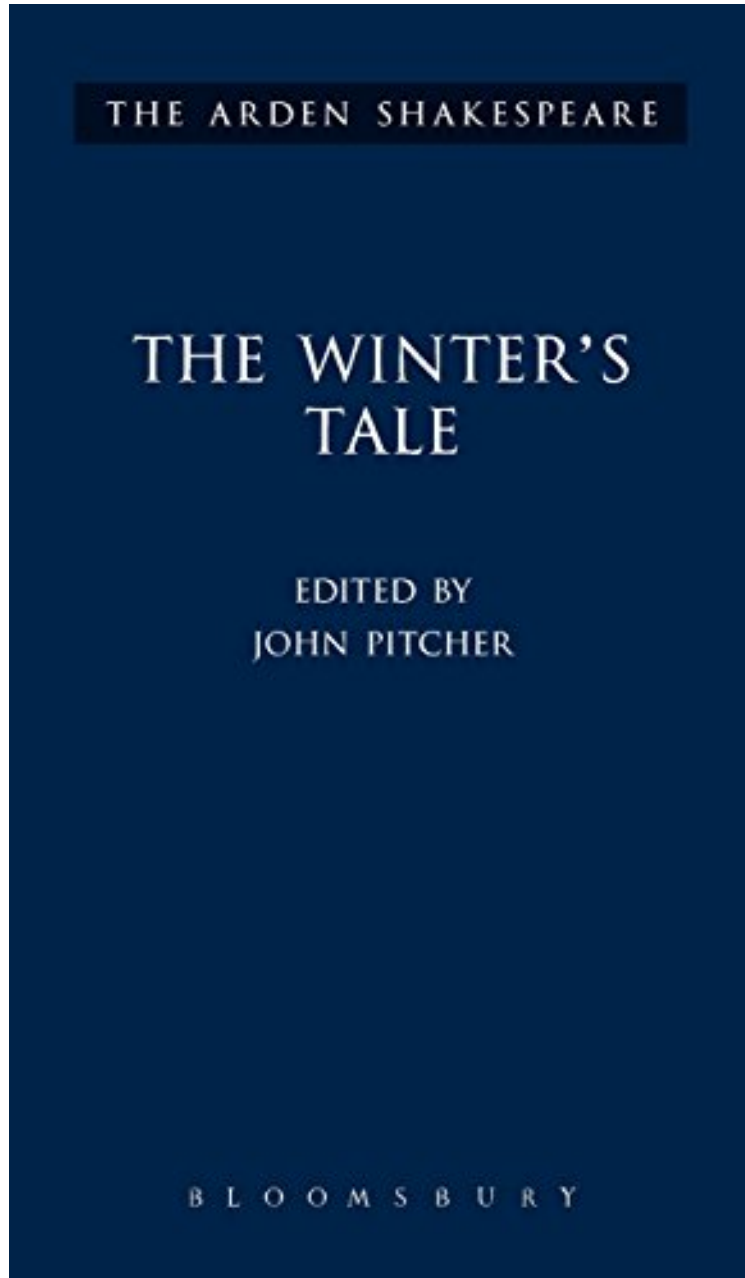


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The Winter's Tale: Third Series (Arden Shakespeare)

William Shakespeare

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William Shakespeare : The Winter's Tale: Third Series (Arden Shakespeare) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Winter's Tale: Third Series (Arden Shakespeare):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome Play!!!By Len Evans Jr.Picking up tis play to read I knew absolutley nothing about it other than having heard it's name. I have to say I am glad I took a chance on the unknown because this play was truly a pleasure to read. Once I got used to the English used in it reading it became almost melodic in my head. There is no doubt Shakespeare knew how to make words dance. This play almost feels like it should be two separate plays since they are so very different in feel. The first half a tragedy and the sequel a romance. I feel like Shakespeare wrote this play as sort of an homage to the Greek classics. if that was his intent, then I have to say he succeeded very well indeed. I loved that even with all the flowery language (multiple times requiring me to look up words) he quickly managed to start the film projector in my head I was seeing the action happening in my head. Truly a classic and I am so thrilled that my first foray into Shakespeare unknown to me was such a resounding success!!7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Shakespeare's Matriarchal FantasyBy Chosroes III"The Winter's Tale" marks Shakespeare's entrance into a prescient world of High Romantic ideals, where the stagnancy of a courtly world dominated by emotionally afflicted males is subverted by a vernal world of female power. Leontes, King of Sicilia, is one of Shakespeare's most convincingly self-tortured characters, while Hermione is an icon of long-suffering patience, incarnated in the famous statue of the play's conclusion. Her daughter Perdita is the subject of potentially blasphemous adoration, not only for her suitor Florizel but for the entire world; she glows in the suggested light of pagan mystery cult, the Eleusinian mysteries of mothers and daughters in secret collusion with nature and against the withering forces of jealousy and death. In this light, the critical essay included with this edition is sadly tone-deaf to Shakespeare's potent poetic raptures in this play, hearkening instead to a dogmatic, albeit at least clearly presented, rehearsal of Renaissance attitudes about "patriarchy" which deadens Hermione and her faithful advocate Paulina into mere totems for self-exculpating males of the sort whom Shakespeare embodies, with withering criticism, in Leontes and the judgmental Polixenes.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. reading Shakespeare is kind of like trying to work through a slightly familiar written foreign ...By notmybagsFor me, reading Shakespeare is kind of like trying to work through a slightly familiar written foreign language. These Folger books are helpful because they explain difficult phrases and unusual words on the page facing the confusions as they occur. They also tell you about the storyline and emphasize the important points, which are so easy to miss while trying to plug through the old English. Having read four of the Folger paperbacks and then attending the plays, I am just now starting to get fluent enough to enjoy the books and the language without constant referral to the notes. I don't know how else I would have been able to stick with ol' William without Folger as a tour guide.

One of Shakespeare's later plays, best described as a tragic-comedy, the play falls into two distinct parts. In the first Leontes is thrown into a jealous rage by his suspicions of his wife Hermione and his best-friend, and imprisons her and orders that her new born daughter be left to perish. The second half is a pastoral comedy with the "lost" daughter Perdita having been rescued by shepherds and now in love with a young prince. The play ends with former lovers and friends reunited after the apparently miraculous resurrection of Hermione. John Pitcher's lively introduction and commentary explores the extraordinary merging of theatrical forms in the play and its success in performance. As the recent Sam Mendes production at the Old Vic shows, this is a play that can work a kind of magic in the theatre.For more than a century educators, students and general readers have relied on The Arden Shakespeare to provide the very best scholarship and most authoritative texts available.The Third Series editions' added emphasis on all aspects of Shakespeare performance extended the Arden editions readership to also become the preferred text for theatre professionals.

About the AuthorJohn Pitcher is Professor of English at St John's College, Oxford.