



Reading Shakespeare Historically

By Lisa Jardine

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Reading Shakespeare Historically is a passionate, provocative book by one of the most renowned and popular Renaissance scholars writing today. Charting ten years of critical development, these challenging, witty essays shed new light on Renaissance studies. It also raises intriguing questions about how the culture and history of the past illuminates the key social and political issues of today. Lisa Jardine re-reads Renaissance drama in its historical and cultural context, from laws of defamation in *Othello* to the competing loyalties of companionate marriage and male friendship in *The Changeling*. In doing so she reveals a wealth of new insights, sometimes surprising but always original and engrossing. At the same time, these essays also provide a fascinating account of the rise of feminist scholarship since the 1980s and the diversifying of 'new historicist' approaches over the same period.

Reading Shakespeare Historically will fascinate and provoke students of Shakespeare and his historical age, and general readers with an urge to understand how the culture and history of our past illuminates the key social and political issues of today.

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..."the historicizings are helpful, interesting and erudite...."

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"A splendid collection of essays by one of the most distinguished and original scholars on both sides of the Atlantic - "Natalie Zemon, Princeton University Lisa Jardine is an exhilarating guide to the critical controversies and new perspectives that have recently transformed our understanding of Shakespeare -

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