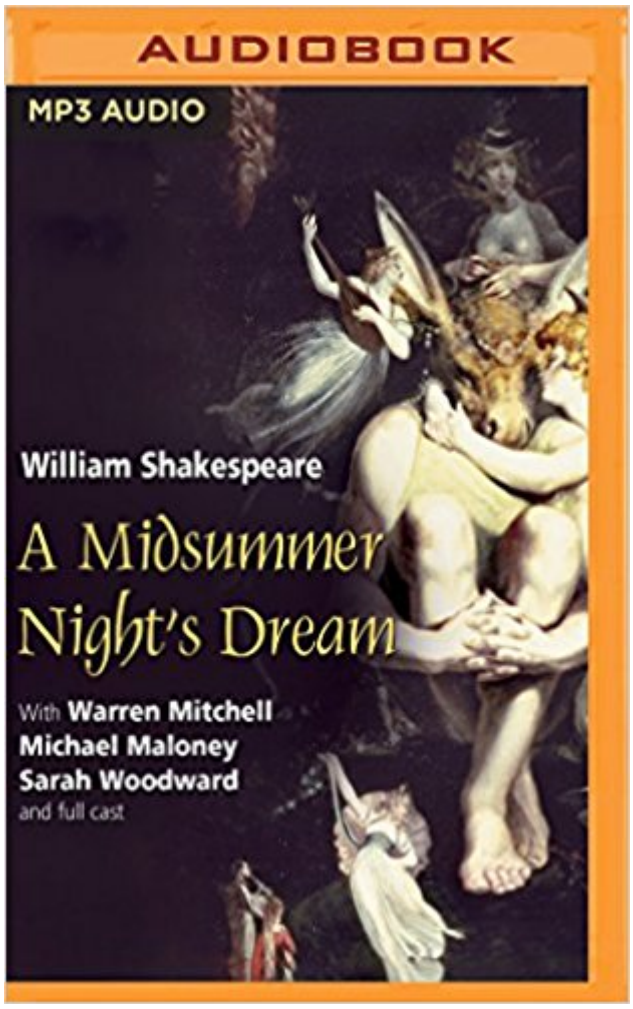
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A Midsummer Night's Dream (Naxos)



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Synopsis

A Midsummer Night’s Dream must be one of the most enduringly popular of Shakespeare’s plays, and it is not difficult to see why: the work blends several kinds of comedy with a powerful atmosphere of magic and mystery and a satisfying set of contrastsÃ¢â ¬â •between city and country, reason and imagination, love and infatuation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Coville follows up his version of The Tempest (see p. 84) with a retelling of another of Shakespeare’s most popular plays. The fundamental story of magic, mischief and the trials and tribulations of love is preserved through well-chosen use of the original language and Coville’s heady prose ("The queen... saw the ass-headed monstrosity through magic-drenched eyes"). Major plot lines are clearly and concisely rendered, but it is the portrayal of the various levels of humor-from Bottom’s buffoonery to Puck’s gleeful magic-making-that really captures the essence of the play. Nolan’s (Dinosaur Dream) sumptuous, painterly watercolors highlight the theatrical setting of the spellbound wood. Gnarled, mossy trees provide the backdrop for a cast of unusually youthful lovers, gossamer-winged fairies (which nod at Rackham’s famous interpretations) and a truly puckish Puck. A first-rate entree to the Bard. Ages 7-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Grade 2 Up?Surely Nolan has created the most appealing Puck since Mickey Rooney. The wise hobgoblin piping on the cover and laughing on the title page is an irresistible lure into the story.

Throughout, the artist’s muted watercolors enrich the retelling. The cast of characters (except for Oberon’s and Titania’s elf-sized bands) look to be straight out of a high-school drama club production. Bottom is definitely the football captain who got roped into doing the play. The effect is delightfully fresh and youthful. The lush settings are perfect, from the blue Mediterranean and marble steps of Athens to the ancient magic of an enchanted forest full of huge gnarled trees with delicate sprites nestled among the vines and roots. Coville’s aim, as in his version of William Shakepeare’s The Tempest (Doubleday, 1994), is to tell the story in an uncomplicated manner and he does it quite smoothly, integrating Shakespeare’s words into the simplified retelling, which is never so modern that the original rhythms are lost. The focus is on the two pairs of young lovers. The foolish antics of Bottom and the rustics, wonderfully slapstick and arguably the most readily accessible to young audiences of any of Shakespeare’s clowning, are introduced but not elaborated upon. A Midsummer Night’s Dream has been retold well in collections, but this individual treatment, verbally and visually true to the spirit of the play, will reach a new audience while delighting the old.?Sally Margolis, formerly at Deerfield Public Library, ILCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Although it’s been more than 40 years since I graduated with a degree in English and I’ve retired from a non-literary career in government, I still read Shakespeare on a regular basis. I’m updating my collection with volumes that will fit into my backpack for travel. This edition fits nicely and the binding protects it from being bent better than a paperback.

I love, love, love this play!! This translation made Shakespeare so much more funny and enjoyable! Would recommend this to anyone, young or old, for leisure reading, studying, or just trying to get their foot in the door with Shakespeare. It is far less intimidating with the translation.

This was helpful as a precursor to seeing a live production of the play, as it had been many years since I last read it. Shakespeare’s language is, of course, beautiful, but it is also helpful to be able to glance at the "translation" to make sure I am really getting the meaning correctly.

One of my favorite Shakespeare plays with an easy to read translation, yes please. I have a BA in English, so reading Shakespeare is easy for me, but this book was a gft. The recipient really enjoyed reading Shakespeare in plain English.

Purchased the kindle version. Simple illustrations were omitted deliberately because of possible copyright infringements. I figure if I am purchasing the book, I should get the book, copyright and all.

I am performing this play coming up, and purchased this version of "Twelfth Night" to serve as a guide. First, physically, it is small enough not to be bulky as you carry it around onstage, but the text is still easily readable. Second, the modern text sits on the opposing page of the original, translating it line-by-line. This version even includes a character breakdown.I would recommend the "No Fear Shakespeare" editions to any actors preparing to perform the Bard's plays to fully understand the text and to make it fun.

As with most Shakespeare the language can both add and take away from the meaning or in this case the humor. Going to see the play at the Globe and didn't want to be confused so I read this first and will check out the movie next. Funny stuff that I've seen before but of course what I've seen before was likely influenced by this.

Shakespeare's classic comedy gets the graphic novel treatment courtesy of Classical Comics. The text is in the original language, perfect for classroom instruction, and the artwork is good enough to bring the story to life for inquiring minds. The comedy may lose a little in a book presentation, but a graphic novel may help pull in new generations of Shakespeare fans.The narrative captures the overlapping stories of the original play: The dilemma of the Duke of Athens over the fate of the maiden Hermia and her two lovers, the rivalry of the King and the Queen of the Fairies, and the group of thespians hoping to pull off a winning play in front of the Duke of Athens. The story relies heavily on magic, passion, and the interference of the mischievous Puck, but it all works and works. Recommended as a good introduction to a great play.

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