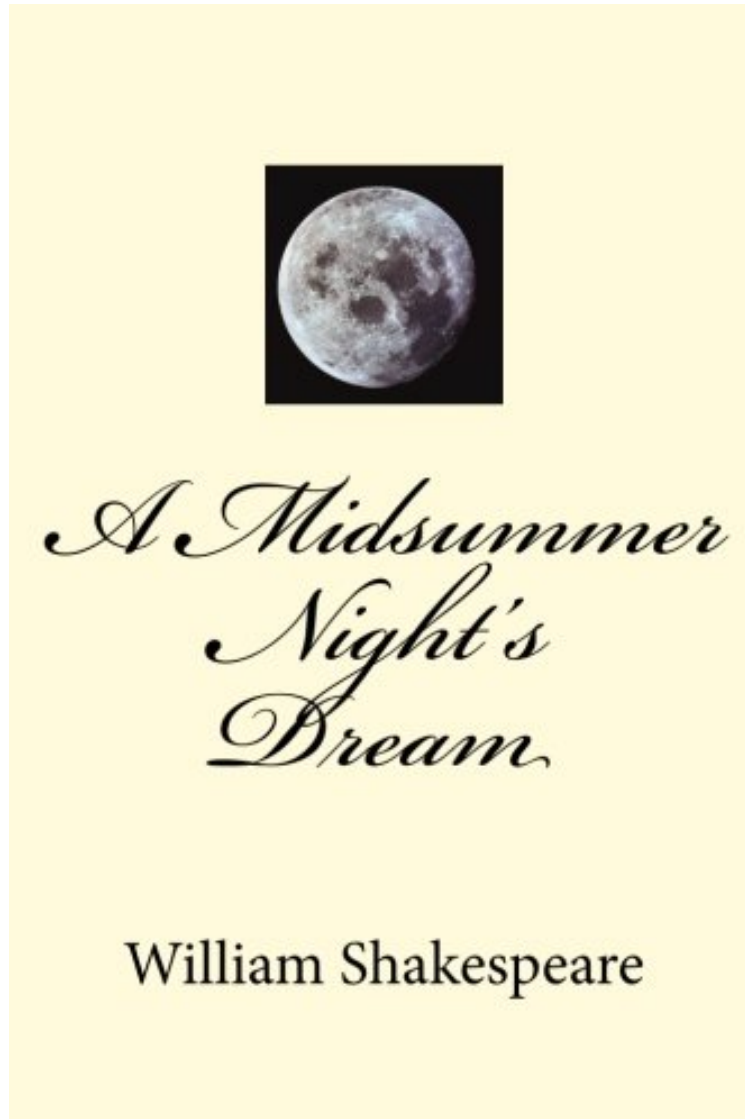


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A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare

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William Shakespeare : A Midsummer Night's Dream before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Midsummer Night's Dream:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Exquisite edition of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream By Z Hayes I have been collecting the Calla Editions' books since 2009. My first purchase was Tales of Mystery and Imagination (Calla Editions) and I was so impressed with the quality (wonderful illustrations, superior binding, etc.) that I began collecting the Calla books. Each and every book has been a delight, and not only have these books enhanced my home library, they have been a joy to peruse and read over and over again. Aside from the beautiful

bindings, Calla Editions are also distinguished by the superior quality illustrations by renowned illustrators such as Arthur Rackham, Kay Nielsen, Chris Van Allsburg, etc. In Calla Editions' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the illustrations are by W. Heath Robinson. W. Heath was part of an illustrious family of illustrators which also comprised Thomas and Charles. In this volume, W. Heath Robinson's magical illustrations are found not only throughout the book, but also on the half title, frontispiece, title page, etc. There are twelve color plates which evoke all the fantastic imagery of one of Shakespeare's most popular plays, as well as the thirty-two full page black and white illustrations accompanied by quotes from the play. This is indeed a treat for fans of Shakespeare's works as well as those who appreciate a fine, heirloom quality book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Edition -- Poor Binding By Budajoe69 Bought this Calla edition of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"... twice -- first time, upon opening the book the binding that holds the pages became unglued from the spine -- completely -- returned and tried another and the same thing -- quite disappointed as you can imagine...but I figure that after two exact same defects, must be a production/batch issue. 5 stars for paper material, illustrations, as Calla editions deliver in this department -- the problem would be with the binding/construction which gets a 1 star -- maybe they didn't actually try to open their books to see how the spines perform? I've checked other Calla editions and this issue seems limited to this title also "A House of Pomegranates" -- beware of this potential issue if ordering these two books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thespians- grab this version! By Crazy Christopher 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.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, a comedy written by William Shakespeare between 1590 and 1597, portrays the events surrounding the marriage of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, to Hippolyta. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors (the mechanicals) who are controlled and manipulated by the fairies who inhabit the forest in which most of the play is set.

From Publishers Weekly 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. From School Library Journal 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 Shakespeare'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, IL Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Ages 6^--10. In this cheerful retelling of Shakespeare's great fantasy, Coville introduces the story and also conveys something of the poetry and drama. Nolan's framed graphite and watercolor paintings express the dreaminess and absurdity of the play, and the pictures have a theatrical flair, as if contemporary young people are in costume and acting the roles. The text is both grand and colloquial ("The course of true love never did run smooth. Besides--I have a plan"). There is comedy and drama in the quarrel scenes ("You painted maypole!") and in Puck's merry mischief. A nice way to prepare children for a fresh performance of the play. Hazel Rochman