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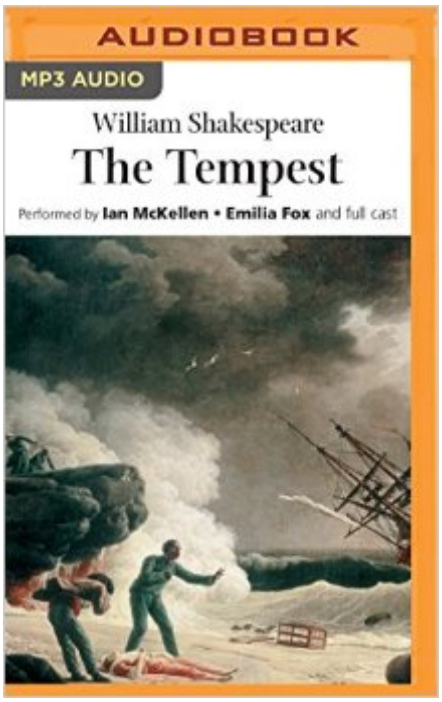
The Tempest (Naxos)



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Synopsis

Sir Ian McKellen, fresh from his performance as Gandalf in Lord of the Rings is Prospero, and heads a strong cast in Shakespeare's last great play. The wronged duke raises a tempest to shipwreck his old opponents on his island so that he can ensure justice is done. With Emilia Fox as Miranda, Scott Handy in the pivotal role of the sprite Ariel, and Ben Owukwe as Caliban, this new production directed by John Tydeman, balances the magic and the earthiness with music playing a key role.

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Customer Reviews

'a fascinating, challenging and highly original volume' Cahiers Elisabethians'Stephen Orgel is an inspired choice as editor of this play ... he produces a clean, modestly innovative text with brisk, informative annotation ... wide ranging, speculative introduction' Martin Butler, University of Leeds, Notes and Queries --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

John Dover Wilson's New Shakespeare, published between 1921 and 1966, became the classic Cambridge edition of Shakespeare's plays and poems until the 1980s. The series, long since out-of-print, is now reissued. Each work contains a lengthy and lively introduction, main text, and substantial notes and glossary. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"The Tempest" is Shakespeare's last great play, and in an oddly appropriate way it is very different from much of his earlier efforts. Unlike most of Shakespeare's work, "The Tempest" seems to have

come mostly from the Bard’s own mind, and does not have source materials from which Shakespeare lifted the plot. This may explain the weakness of the plot of the play, regardless it does not matter in the big scheme of things.The play takes the form of following three separate groups on an enchanted isle. A group of foul noblemen, who gained power through the usurpation of the rightful ruler, a comic trio who stumble about in drunkenness and plot evil deeds (the play’s comic relief) and the "lord" of the island (Prospero) and his faithful spirit world servants. When the three plots converge in the final act of the text Shakespeare gives the reader a satisfying conclusion, but one that still has a hint of sadness and darkness to it. The famous epilogue of the play spoken by Prospero (Now my charms are all o’erthrown...) leaves the reader with a plethora of questions and emotions. This epilogue is one of the most beautiful pieces in the entire canon.It has become fashionable to make "The Tempest" a valedictory play for Shakespeare, and there are many moments in the text that can be read as Prospero speaking for him. At the play’s conclusion Prospero frees his trusty servant Ariel (some say his muse), acknowledges the half human Caliban as "mine own" (some say his own dark nature) and gives up his magic powers (his talent). This is an appropriate reading, and a satisfying one for lovers of Shakespeare. Just be careful not to limit the text to just that interpretation.I think the greater strength in the piece is its portrayal of the absolute humanity of forgiveness, and how lucky we as humans are to be able to practice it. The most poignant scene in Shakespeare begins at the beginning of Act V when Ariel tells Prospero that he would be moved to pity for the people that Prospero has entrapped on the island (with the plan of taking revenge) "were I human". This stunning declaration causes Prospero to recant his vengeful purposes, "the rarer action is in virtue than in vengeance." A grown up Shakespeare has lived a life and seen the capacity for good that humanity can engender. It is hard to imagine the man who wrote "The Tempest" as the same man who wrote the revenge blood fest "Titus Andronicus" so many years earlier. A mature work, from a mature playwright!As for the Pelican Shakespeare series, they are my favorite editions as the scholarly research is usually top notch and the editions themselves look good as an aesthetic unit. It looks and feel like a play and this compliments the text’s contents admirably. The Pelican series was recently reedited and has the latest scholarship on Shakespeare and his time period. Well priced and well worth it.

Awesome play. Considered Shakespeare’s last play written solo. Henry VIII, The Two Noble Kinsmen came after but Shakespeare co-wrote these with John Fletcher. When reading this you can really see how Shakespeare has mastered his skill as a playwright. Unlike many of his other plays, The Tempest follows the Aristotelian unities of time, place, and action. Like with many of his

plays Shakespeare gives us a comical subplot poking fun at the main plot. This is very interesting as it also effectively pokes fun at colonialism. While I would not suggest this as your first read in Shakespeare, I would still call it a 'must read' when studying Shakespeare.

This guide is very simple to follow along, compared to the Old English versions. My sister purchased this edition for her class, and it has greatly helped her to make sense of the writing, rather than to have her mind boggled. The side by side of the original and the modern text, once its able to be grasped the meanings and the contexts, really does allows one to appreciate the beauty of the play and the writings.

Classic Shakespeare at his finest. I had to read this book for school and was satisfied with the read. The plot, characters, and setting is all so unique and reminds me of the tv series Lost. Although Shakespeare is hard to read at times, this book is rather easy compared to books like Macbeth. It's filled with rich language containing vast amounts of literary devices. The movie is also very good

This is one of the poorest cheap Kindle editions of a Shakespeare play I've downloaded. The optical character recognition software that was used changed "full" to "fun" in a couple of places, "head" to "bead," and similar glaring errors. Shakespeare's language doesn't need these added complications; I feel especially sorry for any reader who might be approaching this great play for the first time with this substandard edition.

One cannot be liberally educated without reading Shakespeare. This is not the view of over educated elites, but this Folger edition profitable for average readers. Folger editions are mini courses on Shakespeare, Elizabethan England and the particular play. Each Folger edition is constructed to Shakespeare's play is on one side withe explanation of terms, sites, meanings, etc. This is very easy because what you may want to know is a glance to the left (Print editions) or a quick scroll in the Kindle edition.It is difficult to find good explanations of how freedom developed in England. Shakespeare's historical novels may give the Best explanation.

I bought this for my English class and it worked great. It's small so it's easy to take back and forth to class and it was for a better price than my school bookstore. The print is a good size (not too small and not too big) for the size of the book. This book was not the exact edition of the book that I needed for class but the only differences were the page numbers and the cover, which is not a big

deal. I would recommend for anyone looking for this play and am pleased with my purchase.

Made it easy for me to understand the wording in the book

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