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A FEMINIST  
COMPANION TO  
**SHAKESPEARE**

EDITED BY DYPNA CALLAGHAN



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## Review

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"These 19 original essays reveal the exciting range of inquiry within the feminist community of early-modern scholars . . . the anthology excels in offering clear statements about the implications of feminist practice and absolutely up-to-date scholarship . . . This excellent volume should become a classic of feminist Shakespeare criticism". Choice.

"A feisty collection of articles - all by women - intensely critical of patriarchal control of the Bard and how that has underpinned Western social injustices". Times Literary Supplement.

## From the Back Cover

The question is not whether Shakespeare studies needs feminism, but whether feminism needs Shakespeare. The all-women team of contributors to *A Feminist Companion to Shakespeare* argues that not only is Shakespeare important for women, his works are specifically important for feminism.

The collected essays address issues vital to feminist inquiry such as race, sexuality, the body, queer politics, and the advent of capitalism, but also appropriate ground that has been hitherto regarded as terrain hostile to feminism, such as textual editing and theatre history.

Contributors include both influential voices in the field and new feminist scholars offering fresh and exciting insights. Each contributor is committed to providing beginning students (both female and male) with an accessible foundation for study, while negotiating for the more advanced reader the urgent issues of the field.

*A Feminist Companion to Shakespeare* is the first feminist statement on Shakespeare for the 21st century.

## About the Author

Dympna Callaghan is William P. Tolley, Professor in the Humanities at Syracuse University, New York. Her most recent book is *Shakespeare Without Women* (1999), and she has written widely on feminism and Renaissance Literature.

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

9 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Definitely feminist perspectives against Shakespeare

By Michelle

This book is helpful to understanding the view of feminists who support idea of Shakespeare as a misogynist, but you get no other feminist viewpoint of him. Everything in this book supports the idea of Shakespeare's misogyny-- a position with which I disagree, because I believe that Shakespeare is a champion of women. I wrote a 40 page, graduate school level paper that clearly illustrated how he is NOT a misogynist, and got a 100% on it-- but I digress.

This book is a must have for any serious Shakespeare scholar who wants to be familiar with feminist sentiments against the bard. Just be aware that there also exists feminists who do NOT believe that Shakespeare was a misogynist, and none of their essays appear in this book. The title is misleading in making it sound as though all feminists have the same viewpoint, as is the undiversified content of it. No opinion against Shakespeare's alleged misogyny is included in the book. I give it three stars because it lacks fully one half of the feminist perspective. You can be feminist and not see him as a misogynist, and there are other books out there that you will need to buy to get the complete picture.

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

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