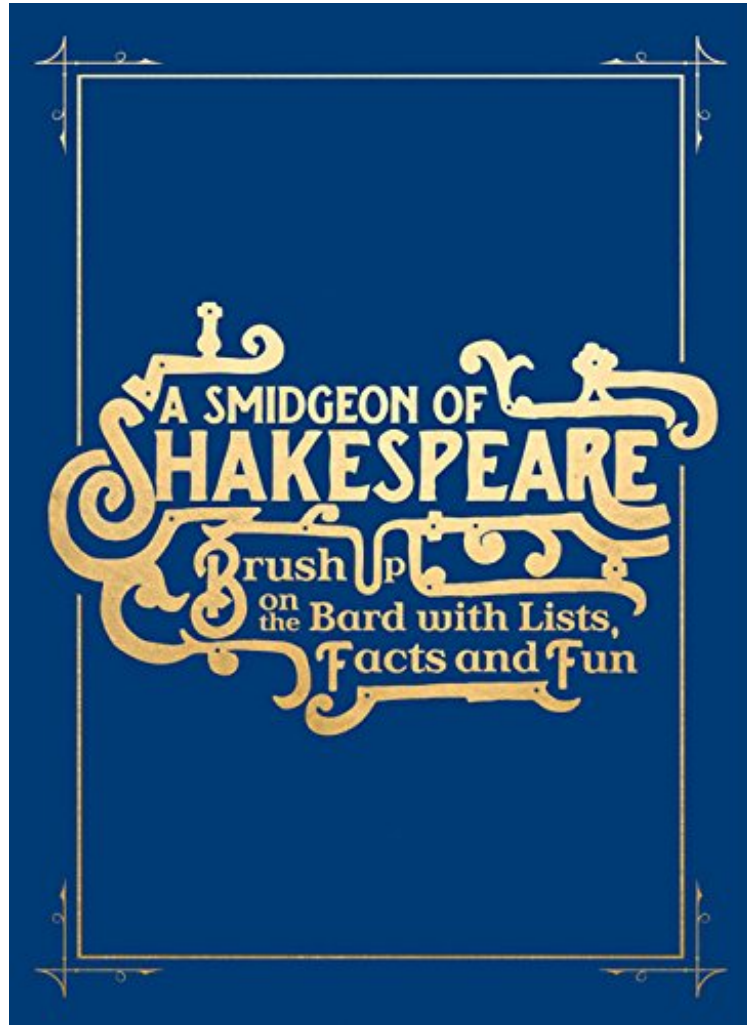


(Free pdf) A Smidgeon of Shakespeare: Brush Up on the Bard with Lists, Facts and Fun

A Smidgeon of Shakespeare: Brush Up on the Bard with Lists, Facts and Fun

Geoff Spiteri

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Geoff Spiteri : A Smidgeon of Shakespeare: Brush Up on the Bard with Lists, Facts and Fun before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Smidgeon of Shakespeare: Brush Up on the Bard with Lists, Facts and Fun:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thinketh my friend, the good Master William Shakespeare wouldst liketh this book. Dost thou agreeth??By STEPHEN PLETKOXXXXXThe questionis whether Shakespeare [called The Bard] is still worth the effortThe [short] answer is yesNothing will replace a good knowledge of the original works [of Shakespeare], but [this book] will provide something of a shortcut to understanding why and how, Shakespeare still matters.The above comes from the introduction of this book by Geoff Spiteri (whose name does not appear on the

front cover). There is no mention of who exactly Spiteri is but through my own research I discovered that he is an award-winning journalist and writer. (Note that the excellent introduction mentioned above is not listed in the Table of Contents.) To tell you the truth, I did not hold out much hope for this book when I first obtained it. After all, how could you learn about the plays of William Shakespeare (1564 to 1616) from such a slim volume. Its impossible I thought. I hate to say it but I was wrong!!! This is actually a tantalizingly captivating compendium. This little tome of Shakespearean quotations, facts, trivia, and illustrations is definite proof that he is as relevant today as he was over 400 years ago. Inside its pages, you will become acquainted with some of Shakespeares more-interesting characters and most-memorable lines, motifs and plots only to discover the rich influence he has had on our language and culture. To give you an idea of how jam-packed with information this book is, I shall give the section titles in the chapter entitled Subversive Shakespeare: (1) Euphemisms in Shakespeare (2) The Act of DarknessBad S**E**X in Shakespeare (3) Disguises (4) Shakespearean FilthMore Euphemisms (5) Gross Gourmets, Part 1 (6) Gender Benders (7) Coldest Words in Shakespeare (8) Saddest Words in Shakespeare. (A euphemism is a word or phrase thats less offensive, less distasteful, etc. than another word. For example, using passed away for died.) This is just one chapter! Most of the chapters are like this one. The last chapter I found to be especially interesting. Some people claim that Shakespeare was not the person who wrote the plays attributed to him. Then who did? The author mentions who the real Shakespeare might be. (Conspiracy theorists will probably enjoy this chapter.) Finally, I had two problems with this book: First, there are no references. I can tell that quite a lot of research went into this book but we dont know where this research information was obtained. (The author does, however, give an informal reference for the Euphemisms section.) The second problem concerns the appendix. Here the author lists the plays we actually have into categories. Traditionally, the plays were listed into three categories: comedies, tragedies, and histories. The author goes beyond these and introduces two more modern categories (making for a total of five). What he doesnt realize is that these modern categories are subsets of the traditional categories meaning that certain plays can actually be in two categories. By not realizing this, he confuses himself and concludes by his listing that Shakespeare wrote 37 plays between [circa] 1590 and 1612. Incorrect. Shakespeare actually wrote 38 plays. The author omitted a play, a very good play and one that can belong to two categories. In conclusion, this is a fun book thats enjoyable to read. Its also a slim book that does not bog down the reader with excessive detail. And this is good. Because Shakespeare should never be a chore. (First published in the U.K. in 2016; introduction, not titled as such; 9 chapters; main narrative 150 pages; appendix, not titled as such; acknowledgements; Shakespeares epitaph) XXXXX

Far from being three-hour marathons of unintelligible, boring dialogue, Shakespeare's plays are in fact exciting, tragic, funny, and often downright rude masterpieces filled with memorable plots, great insults, filthy jokes, and eccentric characters. This handy guide to the bards great works is packed with trivia and pithy entries that cover everything from Shakespeare's greatest villains to his most cutting insults. Did you know that 24 of Uranus 27 moons are named after Shakespearean characters? Or that Hamlet has the most lines in a single play (1569) and the second senator in Cymbeline the least (one solitary two letter word: 'Ay)? Or what Shakespeare was really talking about when he mentions pizzlies, potato fingers, and peculiar rivers? Ranging from the truly enlightening to the utterly obscure, the facts and insights in this comprehensive resource will bring to life as never before the fascinating world of Shakespeares work.

About the Author Geoff Spiteri is an award-winning journalist and writer. He has worked in new media for a number of popular websites.