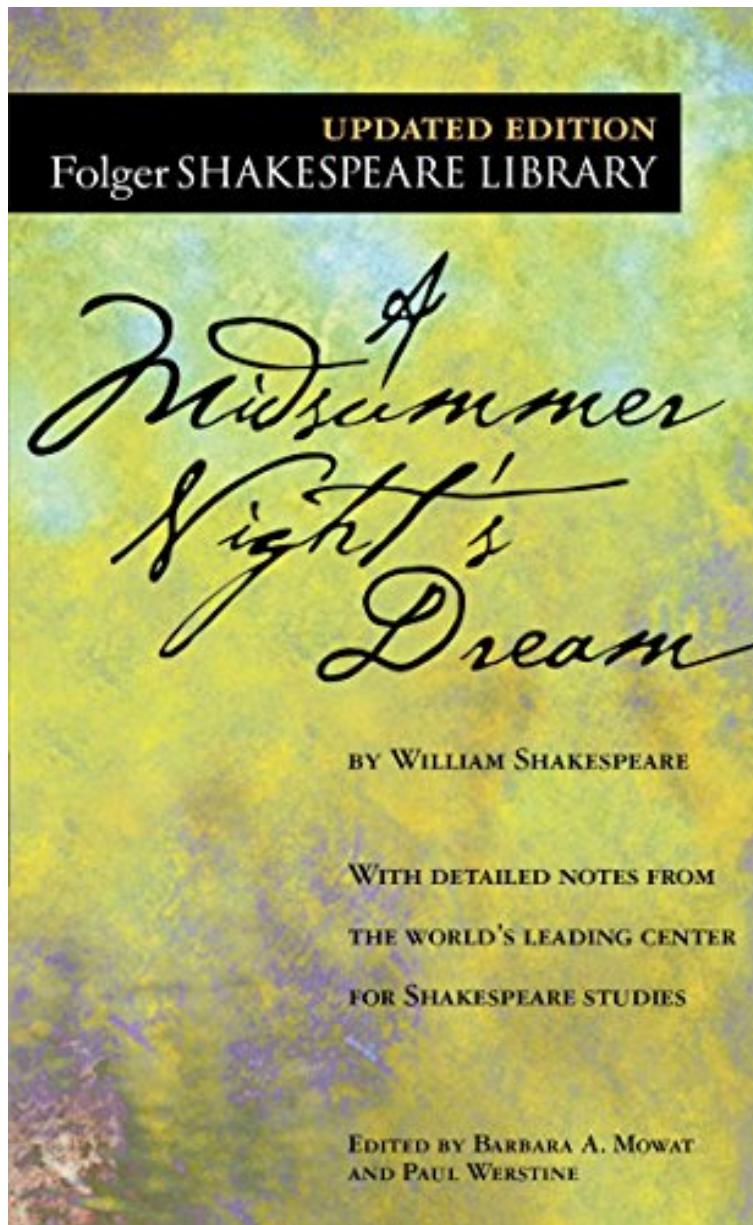


(Library ebook) A Midsummer Night's Dream (Folger Shakespeare Library)

## A Midsummer Night's Dream (Folger Shakespeare Library)

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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read Shakespeare without needing a degree!By SassielsuvsOne 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 gift. The recipient really enjoyed reading Shakespeare in plain English. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What's with the copyright issue with the illustration on the kindle? By William G. 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. 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.

In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare stages the workings of love. Theseus and Hippolyta, about to marry, are figures from mythology. In the woods outside Theseus's Athens, two young men and two young women sort themselves out into couples—but not before they form first one love triangle, and then another. Also in the woods, the king and queen of fairyland, Oberon and Titania, battle over custody of an orphan boy; Oberon uses magic to make Titania fall in love with a weaver named Bottom, whose head is temporarily transformed into that of a donkey by a hobgoblin or "puck." Finally, Bottom and his companions ineptly stage the tragedy of "Pyramus and Thisbe." The authoritative edition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* from The Folger Shakespeare Library, the trusted and widely used Shakespeare series for students and general readers, includes: -The exact text of the printed book for easy cross-reference -Hundreds of hypertext links for instant navigation -Freshly edited text based on the best early printed version of the play -Full explanatory notes conveniently linked to the text of the play -Scene-by-scene plot summaries -A key to the play's famous lines and phrases -An introduction to reading Shakespeare's language -An essay by a leading Shakespeare scholar providing a modern perspective on the play -Fresh images from the Folger Shakespeare Library's vast holdings of rare books -An annotated guide to further reading Essay by Catherine Belsey The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is home to the world's largest collection of Shakespeare's printed works, and a magnet for Shakespeare scholars from around the globe. In addition to exhibitions open to the public throughout the year, the Folger offers a full calendar of performances and programs. For more information, visit [Folger.edu](http://Folger.edu).

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. 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