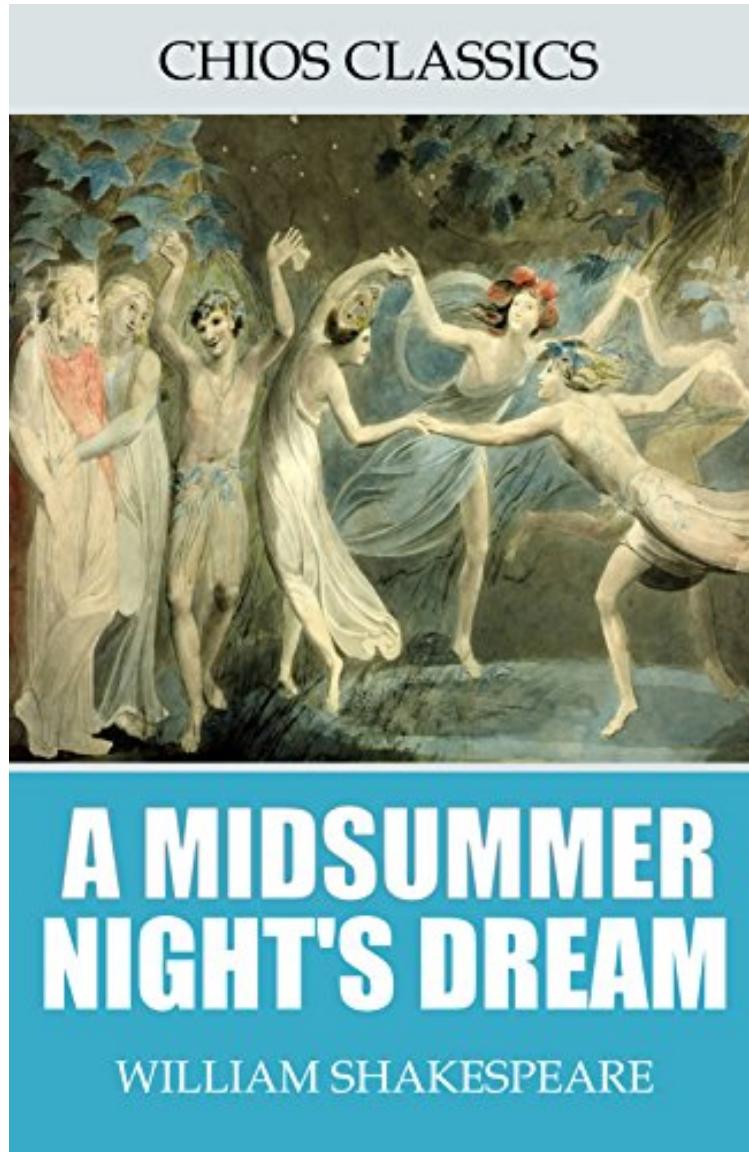


A Midsummer Nightrsquo;s Dream

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

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Chios Classics brings literaturersquo;s greatest works back to life for new generations. All our books contain a linked table of contents.A Midsummer Nightrsquo;s Dream is a comedy written by William Shakespeare in the late 16th century. The play is one of Shakespearersquo;s most popular works and is still one of the most performed plays around the world today.

From Publishers WeeklyCoville 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 JournalGrade 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, ILCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistAges 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