



Shakespeare: the lost years

E. A. J. Honigmann

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For many years scholars have puzzled over the whereabouts of the young William Shakespeare. Where was he and what was he doing during the 'lost years' between leaving school and appearing as an actor and playwright in London? This fascinating literary detective story throws fresh light on these problems and provides some intriguing and significant answers.

Bringing forward new historic and documentary evidence, one of Britain's most senior Shakespeare scholars makes it as clear as it now can be that Shakespeare worked as a schoolmaster and player for a wealthy Catholic landowner in Lancashire and later for the Earl of Derby. One of Honigmann's most startling conclusions is that Shakespeare was probably brought up as a Roman Catholic.

Step by step this strange story of patronage, recusancy and aspiring talent is pursued through complex family relationships in a lucid and readable way which will delight anyone who likes a good story about a great national figure. For the serious scholar, the book shows how the Lancashire connection and the catholic background help to explain mysterious references in a number of the plays and poems, and also fills a major gap in the understanding of our literary heritage.

For this revised edition E. A. J. Honigmann has updated the scholarship surrounding this fascinating research.



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