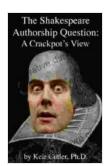
# The Shakespeare Authorship Question Crackpot View



#### The Shakespeare Authorship Question: A Crackpot's

**View** by Keir Cutler

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#### By Chris Shoemaker

William Shakespeare is one of the most famous and celebrated writers in the English language. His plays and poems have been translated into every major language and are performed and studied all over the world. But who was William Shakespeare? Was he really the author of the works that bear his name? Or was he a front for someone else?

The Shakespeare authorship question is one of the most enduring mysteries in literary history. For centuries, people have debated whether William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was the true author of the plays and poems attributed to him. Some scholars have argued that Shakespeare was merely a front for another writer, or even a group of

writers. Others have claimed that Shakespeare was a pseudonym used by a powerful figure who wished to remain anonymous.

There are many different theories about who the real author of Shakespeare's works might be. Some of the most popular candidates include:

- Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford
- Francis Bacon
- Christopher Marlowe
- William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby
- Roger Manners, 5th Earl of Rutland
- Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke
- Queen Elizabeth I.

There is no definitive answer to the Shakespeare authorship question. However, the evidence suggests that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was not the sole author of the works that bear his name. It is more likely that Shakespeare was a front for a group of writers, or even a pseudonym used by a powerful figure who wished to remain anonymous.

### The Evidence Against Shakespeare

There are a number of reasons to doubt that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was the true author of the works that bear his name. These include:

- Shakespeare's lack of education. Shakespeare was born into a humble family and received only a basic education. He did not attend university and there is no evidence that he had any formal training in the classics or in the law. Yet the works attributed to Shakespeare display a deep knowledge of these subjects.
- Shakespeare's lack of experience. Shakespeare spent most of his life in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in Warwickshire. He had no experience of the court, the law, or the military. Yet the works attributed to Shakespeare display a deep understanding of these worlds.
- The lack of contemporary evidence. There is very little contemporary evidence to support the claim that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was the author of the works that bear his name. The first mention of Shakespeare as a playwright occurs in 1592, when he is referred to as a "player" in a document. There are no known manuscripts of Shakespeare's plays or poems from his lifetime.
- The stylistic differences between the early and late plays. The early plays attributed to Shakespeare are written in a very different style than the late plays. The early plays are more experimental and full of puns and wordplay. The late plays are more polished and sophisticated. This suggests that the works attributed to Shakespeare were written by different authors.

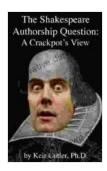
#### The Evidence For Shakespeare

Despite the evidence against Shakespeare's authorship, there is also some evidence that supports the traditional view. This includes:

- The First Folio. The First Folio is a collection of Shakespeare's plays that was published in 1623. The Folio includes a preface by Ben Jonson, one of Shakespeare's contemporaries, which states that Shakespeare was the author of the plays.
- The dedications. The First Folio is dedicated to the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery. The dedication states that Shakespeare was "a great friend" of the Earls and that he had "given them leave" to publish his plays.
- The Sonnets. The Sonnets are a collection of 154 poems that were published in 1609. The Sonnets are written in Shakespeare's name and they contain many personal details about the poet's life. This suggests that Shakespeare was the author of the Sonnets.

The Shakespeare authorship question is a complex and fascinating one. There is no definitive answer to the question of who wrote the works attributed to Shakespeare. However, the evidence suggests that William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon was not the sole author of these works. It is more likely that Shakespeare was a front for a group of writers, or even a pseudonym used by a powerful figure who wished to remain anonymous.

The Shakespeare authorship question is a reminder that we should not take anything for granted. We should always be willing to question our assumptions and to seek out the truth. The Shakespeare authorship question is a mystery that may never be solved. But it is a mystery that continues to fascinate and intrigue people all over the world.



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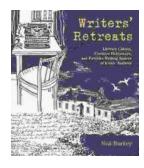
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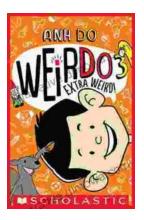
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