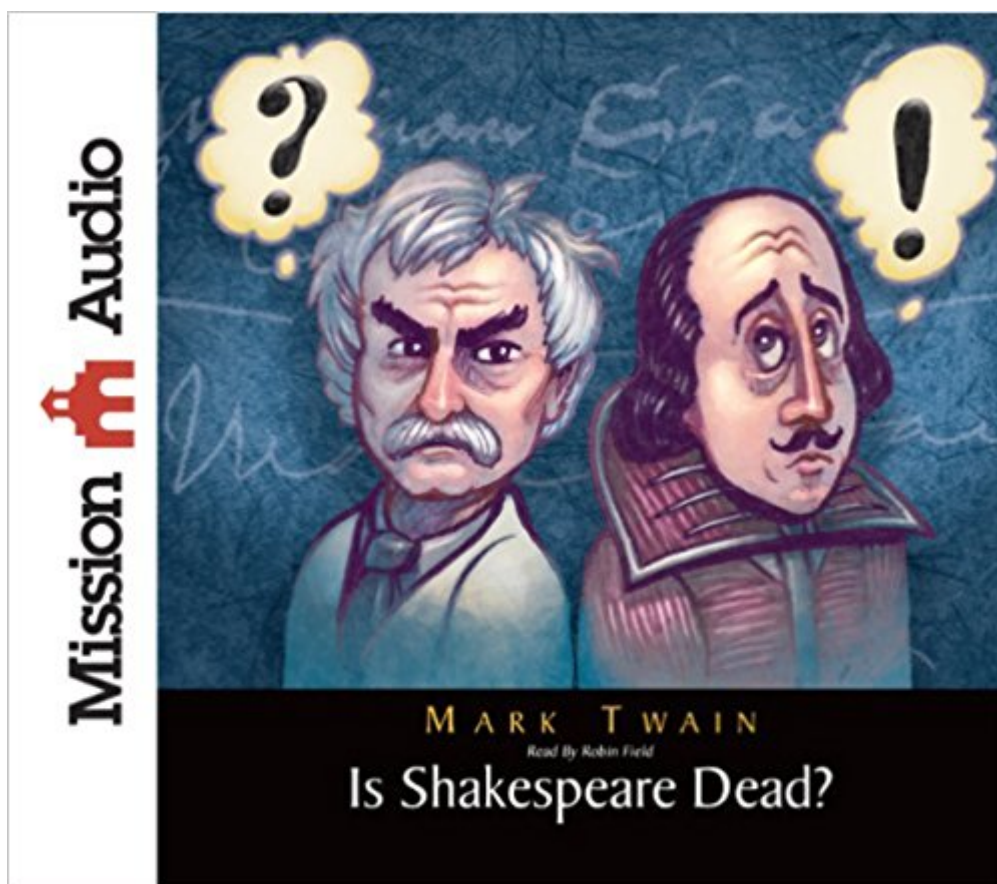


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# Is Shakespeare Dead?: From My Autobiography



## Synopsis

Is Shakespeare Dead? is a short, semi-autobiographical work by American humorist Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. It explores the controversy over the authorship of the Shakespearean literary canon via satire, anecdote, and extensive quotation of contemporary authors on the subject. The original publication spans only 150 pages, and the formatting leaves roughly half of each page blank. The spine is thread bound. It was published in April of 1909 by Harper And Brothers, twelve months before Mark Twain's death. In the book, Clemens clearly states his opinion that Shakespeare of Stratford was not the author of the canon, and lends tentative support to the Baconians. The book opens with a scene from his early adulthood, where he was trained to be a steamboat pilot by an elder who often argued with him over the controversy. (Quote from wikipedia)

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## Customer Reviews

Mark Twain (1835-1910) was an American humorist, satirist, social critic, lecturer and novelist. He is mostly remembered for his classic novels, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

This is a book worth owning but make sure you purchase it from a different publishing house. Kessinger Publishing will sell you a hardcover book for \$24 that is so badly made that you can see the glue holding the binding together on page one. I expect a better quality from a hardcover than i

would in a paperback and yet this hardcover is so cheaply made that the average paperback would put it to shame. Now for the material itself. This is not Twain's wittiest of works nor even his best written, but I relish every line of it nonetheless as he builds a case advancing the notion that just perhaps the works of Shakespeare are not written by Shakespeare at all. Pen name? Sure, especially if you suspect the real author to be by Bacon instead but Twain goes about piecing together the sparse information concerning the great bard and the inconsistencies of what is known sniffing out what can only be a conspiracy to rival that of 9/11. But this is not the beauty of this work because after all what difference does it make who wrote the great works, Shakespeare will always continue to be 'Shakespeare', what Twain seems to be exploring is the ability for one to address what is known to be a 'fact', accepted truth or Holy Cow. Or as he wrote "I am aware that when even the brightest of mind in our world has been trained up from childhood in a superstition of any kind, it will never be possible for that mind, in its maturity, to examine sincerely, dispassionately, and conscientiously any evidence or any circumstance which shall seem to cast doubt upon the validity of that superstition." All notions he suggests we get second-hand "we reason none of them out for ourselves".

exactly as described

Twain critiques spectacularly--as usual, in this piece. I found it to be incredibly interesting and convincing, as Twain believes Shakespeare did not, in fact, write those plays and poems. I would also recommend, by Twain: "1601", "In Defense of Harriet Shelley", and "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses"

If you enjoy the conspiracy of Shakespeare and the idea of who could have done it. Mark Twain gives his declaration in this book.

Twain believed that writers only write from their own experience. Looking at Shakespeare he did not see that. So Shakespeare did not write the plays. Perhaps Twain did not have a good imagination. So he relied on experience. I have a terrible imagination and hate it. But others have great imaginations and the world is better for it. Twain could never write H.G. Wells, War of the Worlds, The Time Machine, Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Fahrenheit 441, Harry Potter, even, Frankenstein, or anything out of "The Twilight Zone." Shakespeare would. He obviously had a great imagination, like many authors of his day. In other words, Twain was simply WRONG!!

Not all writers write alike, like you..Well, that might have been trueyes, shakespeare is dead. he died in 1616.but his plays and poetry live on today. End of story.

I have just come up with another reason like Twain did not like Shakespeare. He though all writers have to base their writings on what they have experienced, like he probably did. He had no imagination, like I don't, and figured that no OTHER author could have an imagination. They must have written according to their own experience, like he did. The guy had NO imagination and thought nobody else did either. The idea that Shakespeare created the ideal couple, Portia and Brutus, in Julius Caesar, then created Kate and Petruchio in Shrew, then Leontes and Hermione, from his imagination must have infuriated Twain. Who couldn't do that.But they were different writers. Shakespeare's plays depended upon imagination, like J.K. Rowling, H.G. Wells, Arthur Conan Doyle, and all science fiction writers.Well, that's my idea. Twain couldn't stand the fact that he had little imagination and Shakespeare did. So he said Shakespeare did not write the plays with his name on them. Sounds like a pretty weak reason. Actually, a self-damning reason.Well, that's my two cents

worth.-----Yes,

Shakespeare is dead. So is Twain. If Shakespeare left school when he was about 13-14 with that today would be a high school education in Latin and the classics, Twain left school at the age of 11-12 in the 5th grade. So how did Twain write all his great works with such a limited education? He never seems to ask himself that. He suffers from the fallacy of anachronistic thinking. There are no papers, etc. Shakespeare was more than 200 years before, before the Industrial Revolution, the Transportation Revolution, the Communication Revolution. Paper is easily destroyed by rain and fire.Twain finally expressed a belief that Francis Bacon wrote the plays, a belief with absolutely no evidence....but like most anti-Strats, evidence is not important. Saying William Shakespeare did not write the plays with his name on them seems to be enough.for the heretics.....

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