



How Shakespeare Changed Everything

By Stephen Marche

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Esquire columnist Stephen Marche gives an expansive and exciting look at William Shakespeare's pervasive influence on every aspect of modern culture—showing us how we can find Shakespeare even where we least expect him. In the spirit of Alain de Botton's *How Proust Can Change Your Life*, Marche reveals how Shakespeare's influence is everywhere—from politics to psychotherapy, Broadway to botany, emo teenagers to outrageous baby names, even zoology (did you know it's the Bard who is responsible for the starlings terrorizing New York City's Central Park?). Fans of literary trivia and readers of Stephen Greenblatt's *Will in the World* and Bill Bryson's *Shakespeare: The World as Stage* will be captivated by Marche's artful reading of how everyday can bring a fresh reading of the Immortal Bard of Avon.

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Editorial Review

Review

“How Shakespeare Changed Everything will provide the details and keep you amused while it does. A teacher who makes the class read the book won’t get much backlash from the sourpuss who calls Shakespeare dull and out-of-date.” (Associated Press)

“How Shakespeare Changed Everything is a joyful little book that is a love note to the greatest writer in the English language: never syrupy or over the top, it’s a pleasure to read.” (Bookreporter.com)

“This is a wonderful book about seeing the world through Shakespeare-tinted glasses. You’ll never look at the food court, Justin Bieber—or, for that matter, the English language—the same way again.” (A. J. Jacobs, author of *The Year of Living Biblically*)

“How Shakespeare Changed Everything is fun and informative, with more than its share of ‘Aha!’ moments packed between its diminutive covers. Mr. Marche’s thesis is compelling and probably more true than we ever imagined.” (New York Journal of Books)

“A sprightly, erudite sampling of Shakespeare’s influence on absolutely everything.” (National Post)

“An ambitious and entertaining new book...[How Shakespeare Changed Everything] explores the many, often unsuspected ways in which the great playwright shaped just about every facet of contemporary culture.” (Maria Popova, BrainPickings.com)

“In his highly readable, never ponderous, sometimes funny, often insightful new book, [Stephen Marche] credits the Bard with everything from shaping American history (the rise of Obama, the fall of Lincoln) to the very enjoyable sex you had last night.” (Wicked Local)

“Informed, ebullient and profoundly respectful.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“[How Shakespeare Changed Everything] is informative and entertaining.” (Publishers Weekly)

“[A] charming tribute...This highly accessible paean to someone whom Marche describes as “the world’s most powerful writer” serves as yet another reminder of the impact Shakespeare has had on culture worldwide.” (Quill & Quire)

“We are lucky that Stephen Marche had his mind blown by Shakespeare; we are luckier still that in making the argument for Shakespeare’s inextinguishable relevance, he has given us a contact high.” (Tom Junod)

“There’s not a drop of boredom in this little book.” (Huntington News)

From the Back Cover

Shakespeare is everywhere

Nearly four hundred years after his death, Shakespeare permeates our everyday lives: from the words we speak to the teenage heartthrobs we worship to the political rhetoric spewed by the twenty-four-hour news

cycle. In the pages of this wickedly clever little book, *Esquire* columnist Stephen Marche uncovers the hidden influence of Shakespeare in our culture, including these fascinating tidbits:

- Shakespeare coined more than 1,700 words, including *hobnob*, *glow*, *lackluster*, and *dawn*.
- Paul Robeson's 1943 performance as Othello on Broadway was a seminal moment in black history.
- Tolstoy wrote an entire book about Shakespeare's failures as a writer.
- In 1936, the Nazi Party tried to claim Shakespeare as a Germanic writer.
- Without Shakespeare, the book titles *Infinite Jest*, *The Sound and the Fury*, and *Brave New World* wouldn't exist.
- The name Jessica was first used in *The Merchant of Venice*.
- Freud's idea of a healthy sex life came directly from the Bard.

Stephen Marche has cherry-picked the sweetest and most savory historical footnotes from Shakespeare's work and life to create this unique celebration of the greatest writer of all time.

About the Author

Stephen Marche is a novelist and columnist whose most recent books include *The Hunger of the Wolf* and *How Shakespeare Changed Everything*. He currently writes a monthly column for *Esquire* magazine in addition to opinion pieces for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, *Salon*, *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*. He is also a weekly contributor to CBC Radio.

www.stephenmarche.com

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Users Review

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Jeremy Scott:

The publication untitled *How Shakespeare Changed Everything* is the book that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of exploration when write the book, hence the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of *How Shakespeare Changed Everything* from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

James Brier:

How Shakespeare Changed Everything can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *How Shakespeare Changed Everything* nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details

that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information may drawn you into new stage of crucial pondering.

Karen Chan:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this How Shakespeare Changed Everything publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still skepticism How Shakespeare Changed Everything as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its protect, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick that!?! Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

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