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## SHAKESPEARE, LOVE AND SERVICE

Peter Laslett's comment, in *The World We Have Lost*, that in the early modern period, "every relationship could be seen as a love-relationship" presents the governing idea of this book. In an analysis that includes Shakespeare's sonnets and a wide range of his plays from *The Comedy of Errors* to *The Winter's Tale*, David Schalkwyk looks at the ways in which the personal, affective relations of love are informed by the social, structural interactions of service. Showing that service is not a "class" concept but rather that it determined the fundamental conditions of identity across the whole society, the book explores the interpenetration of structure and affect in relationships as varied as monarch and subject, aristocrat and personal servant, master and slave, husband and wife, and lover and beloved in light of differences of rank, gender, and sexual identity.

DAVID SCHALKWYK is professor of English and deputy dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Cape Town and was head of the English Department from 2000 to 2003. He received a Solmson Research Fellowship at the Humanities Institute of the University of Wisconsin–Madison (1999) and a Mandela UCT-Harvard Fellowship at the Du Bois Institute for African and African-American Studies at Harvard University (2005). His books include a translation of Karel Schoeman's novel, *'n Ander Land* (as *Another Country*, 1991), *Speech and Performance in Shakespeare's Sonnets and Plays* (Cambridge, 2002), and *Literature and the Touch of the Real* (2004). He has published many articles on topics ranging from Shakespeare and literary philosophy to South African prison writing. He has recently been awarded an A rating as an internationally recognized researcher by the National Research Foundation of South Africa.

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DAVID SCHALKWYK

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[More information](#)

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*For my students, and to Robert Weimann*

## Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction	I
1. “Thou serv’st me, and I’ll love thee”: Love and Service in Shakespeare’s World	16
2. Performance and Imagination: <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> and <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i>	57
3. “His man, unbound”: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> and <i>The Tempest</i>	80
4. “More than a steward”: The Sonnets, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , and <i>Timon of Athens</i>	115
5. “Office and devotion”: <i>Henry IV</i> Parts 1 and 2, the Sonnets, and <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	164
6. “I am your own forever”: <i>King Lear</i> and <i>Othello</i>	214
7. “Something more than man”: <i>The Winter’s Tale</i>	263
<i>Bibliography</i>	299
<i>Index</i>	311

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[More information](#)

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## *Acknowledgments*

This book emerged out of an earlier project on the performative dimensions in Shakespeare's sonnets and plays, published as *Speech and Performance in Shakespeare's Sonnets and Plays*. Throughout my work on performatives and their social and personal situations, I was struck by the fact that a great majority of the relationships with which I was dealing grappled with the affective entanglements of love, but they also almost invariably did so from relationships of mastery and service. Love and service seemed to inform a large number of the relationships represented across Shakespeare's oeuvre. I then encountered Peter Laslett's declaration that in the early modern world, every relationship of service could be considered a relationship of love, and this project was born.

As I began my investigations, which took me into social history, contemporary conduct books, and the history and philosophy of love in its various forms of *eros*, *nomos*, *philia*, and *agapē*, I discovered an urgent interest in the early modern dimensions of service pursued by scholars who, despite their own pressing research projects and my embarrassing ignorance, afforded me unstinting help, encouragement, and stimulating engagement. I am especially indebted to two of them, David Evett and Michael Neill, whose generosity has in every way been boundless and which I cannot hope to repay. Others whose careful reading and responses to various aspects of my text and with whom conversations helped shape this book include Debbie Aarons, Anston Bosman, Stephen Curtis, Tony Dawson, Heather Dubrow, Stephen Greenblatt, Richard Hillman, Jacques Lezra, Lynne Magnusson, Lesley Marx, John Parker, Catherine Robson, Rocelle le Roux, Paul Yachnin, Stephen Watson, and Susanne Wofford. Tom Bishop, Lars Engle, and Ewan Fernie responded immediately as friends and critics to cries for help and of

The text of Shakespeare's sonnets used in this book is the facsimile of the 1609 Quarto reproduced in *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, ed. Stephen Booth (New Haven, CT, and London: Yale University Press, 1978). Quotations from the plays are from *The Oxford Shakespeare*, ed. Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

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