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0521771927 - Shakespeare's Ovid: The Metamorphoses in the Plays and Poems

Edited by A. B. Taylor

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Ovid's great poem, the *Metamorphoses*, was a source of life-long fascination and inspiration for Shakespeare. He drew on its great myths throughout his career: in early works like *Venus and Adonis*, and *Titus Andronicus*, works of the middle period like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*, and late plays such as *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*. This book provides a comprehensive examination of his use of Ovid's poem with contributions from leading international scholars. It begins by examining the use of Ovid's myth in early Elizabethan literature, a use dramatically changed by Marlowe and Shakespeare himself. It then offers detailed readings of Shakespeare's use of Ovid in a wide range of plays and poems, placing new emphasis on several important but hitherto underestimated features. The book also provides the first survey of twentieth-century criticism and methodology in the field.

A. B. TAYLOR, formerly Dean of Humanities at the Swansea Institute, has published widely on Shakespeare and the Elizabethans in leading journals. Now a full-time writer, his other works include poetry, short stories and radio plays.

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# SHAKESPEARE'S OVID

The *Metamorphoses* in the Plays and Poems

EDITED BY

A. B. TAYLOR



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*To my wife Jeannette  
without whose extraordinary, selfless,  
and untiring love  
this book would never have been possible*

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<i>ES</i>	<i>English Studies</i>
<i>ELR</i>	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
<i>JEGP</i>	<i>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>Met.</i>	<i>Ovid's Metamorphoses</i>
<i>MLN</i>	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
<i>N&amp;Q</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
ns	New series
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>RQ</i>	<i>Renaissance Quarterly</i>
<i>SEL</i>	<i>Studies in English Literature</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>ShB</i>	<i>Shakespeare Bulletin</i>
<i>ShJ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Jahrbuch</i>
<i>ShS</i>	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>
<i>ShSt</i>	<i>Shakespeare Studies</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>

*Note on the text*

Unless otherwise stated,

(a) reference is to:

*The Complete Oxford Shakespeare*, ed. Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor (Oxford 1987)*Shakespeare's Ovid, Being Arthur Golding's Translation of the Metamorphoses*, ed. W. H. D. Rouse (London 1904; rpt. 1961)

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*Abbreviations and note on the text*

The *Loeb* editions of Ovid's poetry; of Virgil, Horace, and other classical writers

(b) translations are provided by contributors

A list of the relevant literature on Shakespeare's Ovid is appended to the essay, 'Shakespeare's Ovid in the twentieth century: a critical survey'. See pp. 195–97.