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978-1-108-00127-4 - The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: In a Series of Fifteen Tales, Volume 2

Mary Cowden Clarke

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### The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines

Mary Cowden Clarke (1809-98) was the daughter of the publisher Vincent Novello. She was a noted Shakespearian scholar who produced a complete concordance to his works in 1845, and her fascination with the plays led to her publishing in 1850 a series of imaginative accounts of the girlhood of some of his heroines. Her motive was 'to imagine the possible circumstances and influences of scene, event, and associate, surrounding the infant life of his heroines, which might have conduced to originate and foster those germs of character recognized in their maturity as by him developed; to conjecture what might have been the first imperfect dawns of that which he has shown us in the meridian blaze of perfection.' These 'prequels' offer a back-story which is surprising in its subversive interpretation of the plays and especially of the role of the 'hero'. This volume contains the stories of Isabella, Katharine and Bianca, Ophelia, Rosalind and Celia, and Juliet.

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VOLUME 2

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