

SHAKESPEAREAN ARRIVALS

In this distinctive study, Nicholas Luke explores the abiding power of Shakespeare's tragedies by suggesting an innovative new model of his character creation. Rather than treating characters as presupposed beings, Luke shows how they arrive as something more than functional *dramatis personae* – how they come to life as 'subjects' – through Shakespeare's orchestration of transformational dramatic events. Moving beyond dominant critical modes, Luke combines compelling close readings of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear* with an accessible analysis of thinkers such as Badiou, Žižek, Bergson, Whitehead and Latour, and the 'adventist' Christian tradition flowing from Saint Paul through Luther to Kierkegaard. Representing a significant intervention into the way we encounter Shakespeare's tragic figures, the book argues for a subjectivity which is not singular or abiding, but perilous and leaping.

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The Birth of Character

NICHOLAS LUKE

The University of Queensland



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-43382-2 — Shakespearean Arrivals
 Nicholas Luke
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108433822
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108380881

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First published 2018
 First paperback edition 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

NAMES: Luke, Nicholas, 1982— author.
 TITLE: Shakespearean arrivals : the birth of character / Nicholas Luke.
 DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2018. | Includes index.
 IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2017036756 | ISBN 9781108422154
 SUBJECTS: LCSH: Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616 – Characters. | Shakespeare, William,
 1564–1616 – Tragedies. | Characters and characteristics in literature.
 CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR2989 .L85 2018 | DDC 822.3/3—dc23
 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017036756>

ISBN 978-1-108-42215-4 Hardback
 ISBN 978-1-108-43382-2 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

Whom to thank is the easy part. First and foremost, I thank Simon Palfrey, who guided my doctoral studies with patience, warmth and intellectual vigour. But that is only part of the story, for while this book began its life as a thesis, it has since undergone many and substantial changes. Long after I left Oxford, and far beyond the call of duty, Simon continued to bounce around ideas with generosity and insight. His feel for Shakespeare's language is inspiring, and his insights are doubtless scattered throughout this book – I only hope I offered a couple in return.

I also thank my doctoral examiners, John Gillies and Laurie Maguire, who gave invaluable feedback and encouragement; Adelaide Luke, Ann Luke and Joanna Ward, who provided much needed editorial assistance at various crucial stages; Sarah Stanton and the team at Cambridge University Press, who were a pleasure to deal with; and my first reader at Cambridge University Press, who gave two wonderfully detailed and insightful reports. My thanks go further back too: to Ruth Blair at the University of Queensland, who in many ways set me on my path in literary studies. And thanks end, as they often do, at the very beginning: I'm profoundly grateful to my parents, Don and Ann Luke, first for bribing me to read (the bribes soon weren't needed), but most of all for the many early forums for love and exegesis.

But the end is not the end and my thanks go forward too: to my daughter Ella and most of all my wife Adelaide. I'm not sure you'd classify love as an existential project in world creation, but you make me see it feelingly. For that, and for everything, I thank and love you.