

SHAKESPEARE'S DOMESTIC TRAGEDIES

Domestic tragedy was an innovative genre, suggesting that the lives and sufferings of ordinary people were worthy of the dramatic scope of tragedy. In this compelling study, Emma Whipday revises the narrative of Shakespeare's plays to show how this genre, together with neglected pamphlets, ballads, and other forms of 'cheap print' about domestic violence, informed some of Shakespeare's greatest works. Providing a significant reappraisal of *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*, the book argues that domesticity is central to these plays: they stage how societal and familial pressures shape individual agency; how the integrity of the house is associated with the body of the housewife; and how household transgressions render the home permeable. Whipday demonstrates that Shakespeare not only appropriated constructions of the domestic from domestic tragedies, but that he transformed the genre, using heightened language, foreign settings, and elite spheres to stage familiar domestic worlds.

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DOMESTIC TRAGEDIES

Violence in the Early Modern Home

EMMA WHIPDAY

Newcastle University



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Note on the Text

Original spellings have been retained in all quotations, with the exception of u/v and i/j, which have been modernised. Titles of early modern plays have been modernised. Anonymous works are cited by title. All quotations from William Shakespeare's works are from *The Norton Shakespeare*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean E. Howard, and Katharine Eisaman Maus, 3rd edn (New York: Norton, 2016), unless otherwise stated. All references to the Bible are to *The Geneva Bible: A Facsimile of the 1560 Edition*, intro. Lloyd E. Berry (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969), unless otherwise stated. Titles of lost plays and lost ballads are given in quotation marks.

Abbreviations

Britwell	Britwell Collection, Henry E. Huntington Library
Crawford	Crawford Collection, National Library of Scotland
Douce	Douce Ballads, Bodleian Library
<i>EBBA</i>	<i>Early Broadside Ballad Archive</i> (University of California, 2014), http://ebba.english.ucsb.edu
<i>ELR</i>	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
EETS	Early English Text Society
HEHL	Henry E. Huntington Library
Huth	Huth Collection, British Library
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), www.oxforddnb.com
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), www.oed.com
Pepys	Pepys Collection, Magdalene College Library, University of Cambridge
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
PRO	Public Record Office
Roxburghe	Roxburghe Collection, British Library
<i>SEL</i>	<i>Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
SP	State Papers