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978-1-108-49039-9 — All the Sonnets of Shakespeare
William Shakespeare, Edited by Paul Edmondson, Stanley Wells
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All the Sonnets of Shakespeare

How can we look afresh at Shakespeare as a writer of sonnets? What new light might they shed on his career, personality, and sexuality? Shakespeare wrote sonnets for at least thirty years, not only for himself, for professional reasons, and for those he loved, but also in his plays, as prologues, as epilogues, and as part of their poetic texture. This groundbreaking book assembles all of Shakespeare's sonnets in their probable order of composition. An inspiring introduction debunks long-established biographical myths about Shakespeare's sonnets and proposes new insights about how and why he wrote them. Explanatory notes and modern English paraphrases of every poem and dramatic extract illuminate the meaning of these sometimes challenging but always deeply rewarding witnesses to Shakespeare's inner life and professional expertise. Beautifully printed and elegantly presented, this volume will be treasured by students, scholars, and every Shakespeare enthusiast.

Paul Edmondson is Head of Research and Knowledge and Director of the Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. He is the author, co-author, and co-editor of many books and articles about Shakespeare, including *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (with Stanley Wells, 2004), *Twelfth Night* (2005), *Shakespeare: Ideas in Profile* (2015), *Shakespeare Beyond Doubt: Evidence, Argument, Controversy* (2013) and *The Shakespeare Circle: An Alternative Biography* (2015) (both with Stanley Wells, Cambridge University Press), *Shakespeare's Creative Legacies* (with Peter Holbrook, 2016); *Finding Shakespeare's New Place: An Archaeological Biography* (with Kevin Colls and William Mitchell, 2016), and *New Places: Shakespeare and Civic Creativity* (with Ewan Fernie, 2018). He is a priest in the Church of England.

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