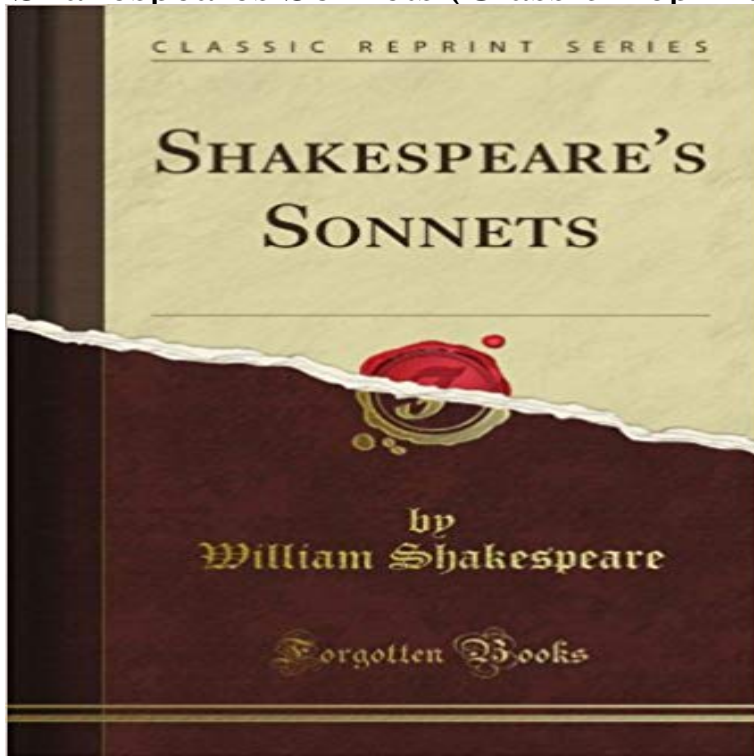


## Shakespeares Sonnets (Classic Reprint)



This is practically a new book, the critical matter in my former edition of the Sonnets (published in 1883, and somewhat revised and enlarged in subsequent years) having been mostly rewritten and considerably augmented. So far as I am aware, it is the first thoroughly annotated edition that has appeared in this country. The American editors of Shakespeares works, like the great majority of those in England, have given less attention to the poems than to the plays; and the only separate English editions of the Sonnets (including both text and commentary) worth mentioning are those of Dowden, Tyler, and Wyndham (in his Poems of Shakespeare). Many books about the Sonnets have been published on both sides of the Atlantic, the majority of which, to my thinking, are chiefly notable for their fanciful theories of the origin and significance of the poems. For a full bibliography of these books, and also of the German literature of the subject (down to 1881, when it appeared), Dowdens larger edition may be consulted. For the critical student, as I said in my former edition, his careful resume answers a double purpose: as a bibliography, directing him to the books and papers on the subject, if he is moved to read any or all of them; and as a compact and convenient substitute for these books and papers, if he wants to know their gist and substance without the drudgery of wading through them. I doubt not that the majority of students will be thankful that Dowden has relieved them of the drudgery by compressing many a dull volume or magazine article into a page or a paragraph. My indebtedness to Dowden, Tyler, and Wyndham is duly acknowledged in the introduction and the notes. My own work must pass for what it may seem to be worth. About the Publisher Forgotten Books is a publisher of historical writings, such as: Philosophy, Clas



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