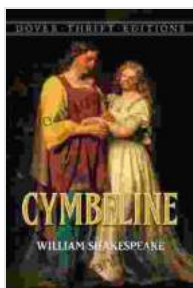


Cymbeline: The Pelican Shakespeare by William Shakespeare - A Detailed Exploration

Cymbeline, one of William Shakespeare's later plays, is a captivating blend of romance, tragedy, and historical drama. First performed in 1611, the play transports readers to a realm of myth, magic, and political intrigue. This article explores the intricate world of Cymbeline, examining its characters, themes, and historical context through the lens of The Pelican Shakespeare edition.



Cymbeline (The Pelican Shakespeare) by William Shakespeare

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1353 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 1480 pages
Paperback	: 56 pages
Item Weight	: 5.4 ounces
Dimensions	: 8.5 x 0.13 x 11 inches



Characters: A Tapestry of Complexity

Cymbeline features a cast of vividly drawn characters, each with their own motivations, flaws, and aspirations. The titular character, King Cymbeline, is a complex and flawed figure, torn between his duty as a ruler and his love for his family. His daughter, Imogen, is a virtuous and courageous

heroine, whose unwavering love for her husband, Posthumus, is tested by adversity.

Posthumus, a noble soldier, is a victim of both his own pride and the machinations of the villainous Iachimo. Iachimo, a cunning and manipulative character, represents the corrosive power of jealousy and deceit. Other notable characters include the loyal and steadfast servant, Pisanio, and the wise and enigmatic soothsayer, Belarius.

Themes: Love, Loyalty, and Identity

Cymbeline explores a rich tapestry of themes that resonate with audiences across time. Love is a central theme, depicted in its various forms: romantic love between Imogen and Posthumus, familial love between Cymbeline and his children, and the unwavering loyalty of Pisanio. The play also delves into the nature of loyalty and betrayal, as characters face moral dilemmas and grapple with the consequences of their actions.

Identity is another significant theme, as characters question their true selves and search for meaning in their lives. Imogen, disguised as Fidele, discovers her inner strength and resilience, while Posthumus undergoes a profound journey of self-discovery.

Historical Context: The Roman Empire and British History

Cymbeline is set in ancient Britain during the reign of the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar. Shakespeare draws upon historical events and figures to create a rich and believable setting for his play. The play's portrayal of Roman rule and British resistance reflects the complex relationship between the two nations during the period.

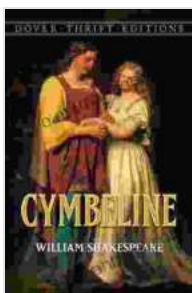
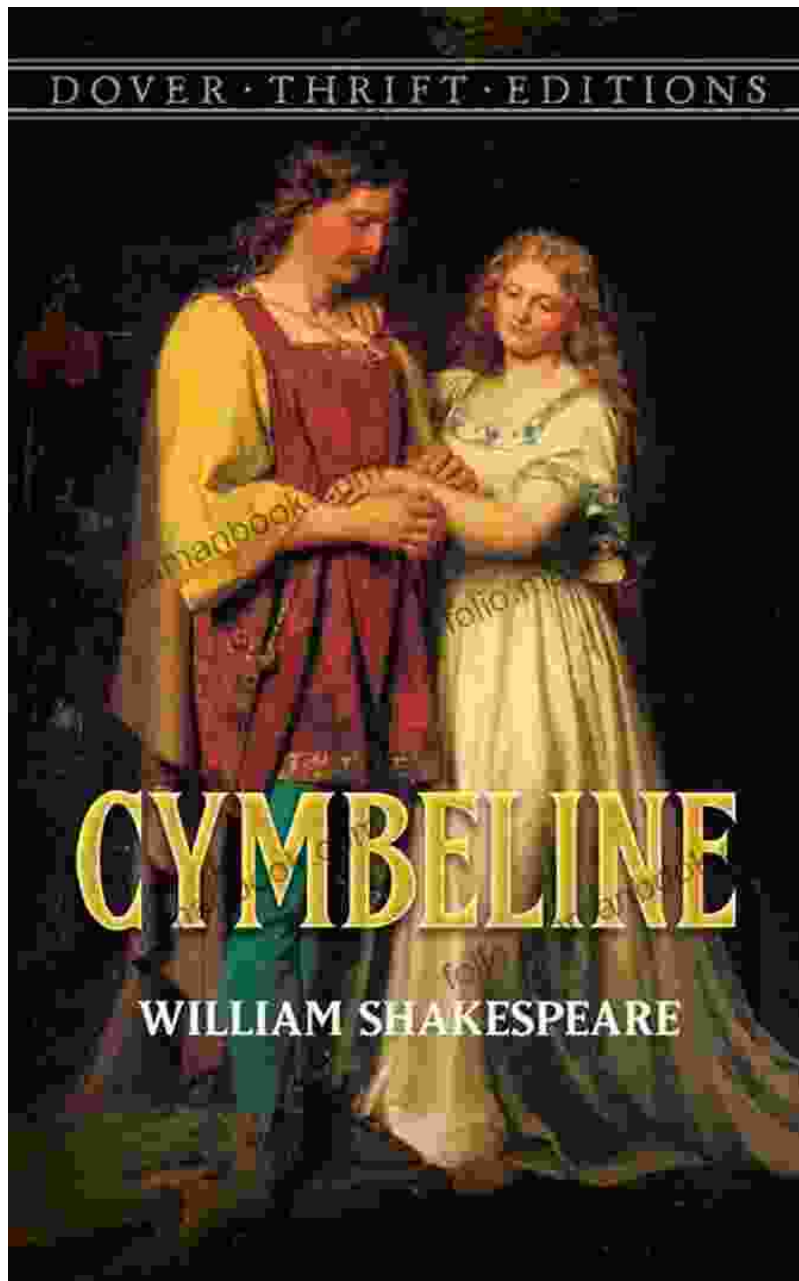
Moreover, Cymbeline's exploration of themes such as honor, duty, and loyalty resonate with the cultural values of both the Roman Empire and Elizabethan England. The play thus offers insights into the historical and social context that shaped Shakespeare's work.

The Pelican Shakespeare Edition: A Scholarly Resource

The Pelican Shakespeare edition of Cymbeline provides a comprehensive and accessible resource for students, scholars, and general readers alike. The edition features a detailed introduction by renowned Shakespearean scholar Stephen Orgel, which offers valuable insights into the play's historical context, themes, and critical reception.

The text of the play is meticulously edited and includes extensive footnotes that elucidate difficult passages, provide historical context, and offer alternative interpretations. The edition also includes a glossary of terms and a list of characters, making it an invaluable tool for understanding and appreciating Cymbeline.

Cymbeline is a timeless masterpiece that continues to captivate audiences with its complex characters, enduring themes, and rich historical context. The Pelican Shakespeare edition offers an exceptional resource for exploring the play's intricacies and gaining a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's artistry. Whether you are a seasoned Shakespeare enthusiast or a newcomer to his works, Cymbeline: The Pelican Shakespeare is an essential addition to your literary library.



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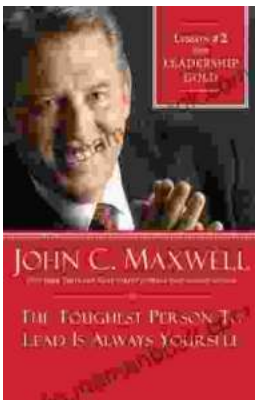
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