

# The Comedy Of Errors Arden Shakespeare Second

two sets of identical twins provide the basis for ongoing incidents of mistaken identity within a lively plot of quarrels arrests and a grand courtroom denouement one of Shakespeare's earliest comedic efforts

the comedy of errors is one of william shakespeare s early plays it is his shortest and one of his most farcical comedies with a major part of the humour coming from slapstick and mistaken identity in addition to puns and word play

this comprehensive guide to the comedy of errors brings together the most significant and authoritative insights on this early shakespearean comedy the texts presented chronologically represent the best writings on the play from a 1594 review of a performance at gray s inn to contemporary feminist and new historicist interpretations important textual analyses by samuel taylor coleridge george bernard shaw and harry levin among others are included with five previously unpublished essays by leading shakespeare experts

shakespeare s the comedy of errors is the slapstick farce of his youth in it the lost twin sons of the old merchant egeon both named antipholus find themselves in ephesus without either one even knowing of the other s existence meanwhile egeon has arrived in search of the son he thinks is still alive and has been sentenced to death for the crime of being from syracuse to add to the confusion the two antipholuses have twin servants both named dromio as the four men unwittingly encounter each other the play is crammed with wildly escalating misunderstandings before the truth emerges and egeon is pardoned shakespeare bases his story on plautus s menaechmi a play about identical twins who accidentally meet after a lifetime apart he borrows from another plautus play by having adriana the wife of one antipholus entertain the other the spirited adriana often gives speeches evoking strong emotions as do other characters at times even here shakespeare suggests complexities beyond the farce

the comedy of errors is a brilliant piece of theatrical mechanism a story of mounting confusion involving two pairs of twins but it also explores the relations between lovers and between husband and wife and ends with the warmth and reconciliation of a multiple family reunion

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separated at birth antipholus of syracuse and his servant dromio of syracuse arrive in ephesus which turns out to be the home of their twin brothers antipholus of ephesus and his servant dromio of ephesus when the syracusans encounter the friends and families of their twins a series of wild mishaps based on mistaken identities lead to wrongful beatings a near seduction the arrest of antipholus of ephesus and false accusations of infidelity theft madness and demonic possession a comedy of errors is shakespeare s shortest play yet one of his most popular comedies here is a new modern spelling edition based on the 1623 folio text with on page commentary and notes that explain meaning staging language and allusions a detailed and informative introduction describes the play s first performance at gray s inn in december 1594 its multiple sources and its uneven critical and theatrical history appendices include the complete text of the play s main source plautus menaechmi and extracts from gesta grayorum and the geneva bible illustrated with production photographs and related art this edition vividly brings to life shakespeare s comedy of errors not simply a better text but a new conception of shakespeare this is a major achievement of twentieth century scholarship times literary supplement about the author william shakespeare 1564 1616 was a poet playwright and actor who is widely regarded as one of the most influential writers in the history of the english language often referred to as the bard of avon shakespeare s vast body of work includes comedic tragic and historical plays poems and 154 sonnets his dramatic works have been translated into every major language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright synopsis the comedy of errors tells the story of two sets of identical twins antipholus of syracuse and his servant dromio of syracuse arrive in ephesus which turns out to be the home of their twin brothers antipholus of ephesus and his servant dromio of ephesus when the syracusans encounter the friends and families of their twins a series of wild mishaps based on mistaken identities lead to wrongful beatings a near incestuous seduction the arrest of antipholus of ephesus and accusations of infidelity theft madness and demonic possession

the new cambridge shakespeare appeals to students worldwide for its up to date scholarship and emphasis on performance the series features line by line commentaries and textual notes on the plays and poems introductions are regularly refreshed with accounts of new critical stage and screen interpretations for this second edition of the comedy of errors ros king has revised t s dorsch s renowned text and commentary and written a completely new introduction to the work she argues that the play cannot be regarded merely as a farcical romp based on a classical model but that it belongs to the critically misunderstood genre of tragi comedy emphasising the seriousness that underlies the text she pays special attention to the play s religious imagery and at the same time engages fully with its lightness of touch and its continuing popularity in the theatre the volume also features accounts of recent and historical performances and an updated reading list

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egeon a merchant of syracuse is condemned to death in ephesus for violating the ban against travel between the two rival cities as he is led to his execution he tells the ephesian duke solinus that he has come to syracuse in search of his wife and one of his twin sons who were separated from him 25 years ago in a shipwreck the other twin who grew up with egeon is also traveling the world in search of the missing half of their family the twins we learn are identical and each has an identical twin slave named dromio the duke is so moved by this story that he grants egeon a day to raise the thousand mark ransom that would be necessary to save his life meanwhile unknown to egeon his son antipholus of syracuse and antipholus slave dromio is also visiting ephesus where antipholus missing twin known as antipholus of ephesus is a prosperous citizen of the city adriana antipholus of ephesus wife mistakes antipholus of syracuse for her husband and drags him home for dinner leaving dromio of syracuse to stand guard at the door and admit no one shortly thereafter antipholus of ephesus with his slave dromio of ephesus returns home and is refused entry to his own house meanwhile antipholus of syracuse has fallen in love with luciana adriana s sister who is appalled at the behavior of the man she thinks is her brother in law

identical twins separated at birth provides the foundation for humour in one of shakespeare s earlier plays the young twin sons of egeon alongside another set of young twin boys purchased as slaves are lost to one another during a tempest at sea egeon who saves one son and his slave by tying them to the mast is separated from his wife who is rescued with their other boy and his slave as each searches for the other the stage is set for a romp that revolves around mistaken identity physical mishaps and the comedy of errors referenced in the title known as the bard of avon william shakespeare is arguably the greatest english language writer known enormously popular during his life shakespeare s works continue to resonate more than three centuries after his death as has his influence on theatre and literature shakespeare s innovative use of character language and experimentation with romance as tragedy served as a foundation for later playwrights and dramatists and some of his most famous lines of dialogue have become part of everyday speech harperperennialclassics brings great works of literature to life in digital format upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms look for more titles in the harperperennial classics collection to build your digital library

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