



William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice: A Sourcebook (Routledge Guides to Literature)

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With Shylock's pound of flesh and Portia's golden ring, *The Merchant of Venice* is one of Shakespeare's most controversial, disturbing and unforgettable plays.

Combining accessible commentary with a range of reprinted materials, S. P. Cerasano:

- *explores the contexts of the play, including early modern images of Venice, the commercialism of the play, Shakespeare's theatre and London, and images of Jewishness

- *samples modern criticism of Shakespeare's *Merchant*, grouped into sections on The Economic Framework, Choosing and Risking, and Shylock and Other Strangers

- *offers an invaluable discussion of the play in performance, considering crucial staging issues and changing interpretations of the roles of Portia and Shylock

- *closely examines key passages of the work, providing both commentary and extensively annotated sections of play text

- *prepares readers for additional study of the play with a useful guide to further reading.

Assuming no prior knowledge of the play, this sourcebook is the essential guide to one of the most haunting works of English drama.

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