

# Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
Acknowledgements	xii
Author's note	xiii

## Part I: Stratford-upon-Avon

1	<i>There was a starre daunst, and vnder that was I borne</i>	3
2	<i>Shee is my essence</i>	6
3	<i>Dost thou loue pictures?</i>	9
4	<i>For where thou art, there is the World it selfe</i>	11
5	<i>Tell me this: who begot thee?</i>	16
6	<i>A witty mother, witlesse else her sonne</i>	27
7	<i>But this is worshipfull society</i>	33
8	<i>I am a kind of Burre, I shal sticke</i>	40
9	<i>This prettie Lad will proue our Countries blisse</i>	43
10	<i>What sees thou there?</i>	47
11	<i>I sommon up remembrance of things past</i>	50
12	<i>a Nowne and a Verbe and such abhominable wordes</i>	53
13	<i>That's not so good now</i>	62
14	<i>Of such a mery nimble stiring spirit</i>	67
15	<i>At your employment, at your seruice sir</i>	73
16	<i>Before I know my selfe, seeke not to know me</i>	79
17	<i>I can see a church by day-light</i>	83

## Part II: The Queen's Men

18	<i>To tell thee plaine, I ayme to lye with thee</i>	93
19	<i>This way for me</i>	96

## Part III: Lord Strange's Men

20	<i>To morrow, toward London</i>	103
21	<i>The spirit of the time shall teach me speed</i>	108
22	<i>There's many a beast then in a populous City</i>	112
23	<i>Sir I shall study deserving</i>	115
24	<i>I will not be slack to play my part in Fortunes Pageant</i>	120
25	<i>As in a Theater, whence they gape and point</i>	124



26	<i>This keene incounter of our wits</i>	132
27	<i>My Sallad dayes</i>	141
28	<i>I see sir, you are eaten vp with passion</i>	146
29	<i>Why should I not now have the like successes?</i>	149
30	<i>O barbarous and bloody spectacle</i>	157
31	<i>Ile neuer pawse againe, neuer stand still</i>	161

#### Part IV: The Earl of Pembroke's Men

32	<i>Among the buzzing pleased multitude</i>	171
33	<i>An't please your Honor, Players</i>	175
34	<i>They thought it good you heare a play</i>	183
35	<i>There's a great spirit gone, thus did I desire it</i>	188
36	<i>That hath a mint of phrases in his braine</i>	195

#### Part V: The Lord Chamberlain's Men

37	<i>Stay, goe, doe what you will</i>	205
38	<i>We few, we happy few, we band of brothers</i>	209
39	<i>Lord how art thou changed</i>	215
40	<i>Bid me discourse, I will inchaunt thine eare</i>	219
41	<i>Doth rauish like inchaunting harmonie</i>	225
42	<i>To fill the world with words</i>	229
43	<i>See, see, they ioyne, embrace, and seeme to kisse</i>	235
44	<i>What zeale, what furie, hath inspirde thee now?</i>	241
45	<i>Thus leaning on mine elbow I begin</i>	245
46	<i>So musicall a discord, such sweete thunder</i>	252
47	<i>I vnderstand a fury in your words</i>	256
48	<i>So shaken as we are, so wan with care</i>	264
49	<i>Ah, no, no, no, it is mine onely Sonne</i>	269
50	<i>What are you? A gentleman</i>	274
51	<i>His companies vnletter'd, rude, and shallow</i>	277
52	<i>You haue not the booke of Riddles about you, haue you?</i>	283
53	<i>You would plucke out the hart of my mistery</i>	291
54	<i>And to be short, what not, that's sweete and happie</i>	298

#### Part VI: New Place

55	<i>Therefore am I of an honourable house</i>	303
56	<i>Pirates may make cheape penyworths of their pillage</i>	307
57	<i>No more words, we beseech you</i>	311
58	<i>A loyall, iust and vpright Gentleman</i>	316

#### Part VII: The Globe

59	<i>A pretty Plot, well chosen to build vpon</i>	323
60	<i>Thou knowest my lodging, get me inke and paper</i>	328
61	<i>This wide and vniuersall Theater</i>	332
62	<i>Then let the Trumpets sound</i>	337
63	<i>Why there you toucht the life of our designe</i>	340
64	<i>See how the giddy multitude doe point</i>	345
65	<i>And here we wander in illusions</i>	349
66	<i>Sweete smoke of Rhetorike</i>	353
67	<i>Well bandied both, a set of Wit well played</i>	359
68	<i>Now, one the better; then, another best</i>	363
69	<i>I must become a borrower of the night</i>	368
70	<i>Tut I am in their bosomes</i>	371
71	<i>And so in spite of death thou doest suruiue</i>	373
72	<i>I am (quoth he) expected of my friends</i>	378
73	<i>My Lord this is but the play, theyre but in iest</i>	383

#### Part VIII: The King's Men

74	<i>Hee is something peeuish that way</i>	389
75	<i>I, but the case is alter'd</i>	393
76	<i>I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliuer</i>	401
77	<i>Why, sir, what's your conceit in that?</i>	409
78	<i>The bitter disposition of the time</i>	414
79	<i>Oh you go farre</i>	420
80	<i>My life hath in this line some interest</i>	426
81	<i>That strain agen, it had a dying fall</i>	431

#### Part IX: Blackfriars

82	<i>As in a Theater the eies of men</i>	439
83	<i>And sorrow ebs, being blown with wind of words</i>	445
84	<i>And beautie making beautifull old rime</i>	451
85	<i>So there's my riddle, one that's dead is quicke</i>	457
86	<i>When men were fond, I smild, and wondred how</i>	462
87	<i>Let Time shape, and there an end</i>	465
88	<i>I haue not deseru'd this</i>	471
89	<i>My selfe am strook in yeares I must confesse</i>	476
90	<i>The wheele is come full circle I am heere</i>	481
91	<i>To heare the story of your life</i>	487