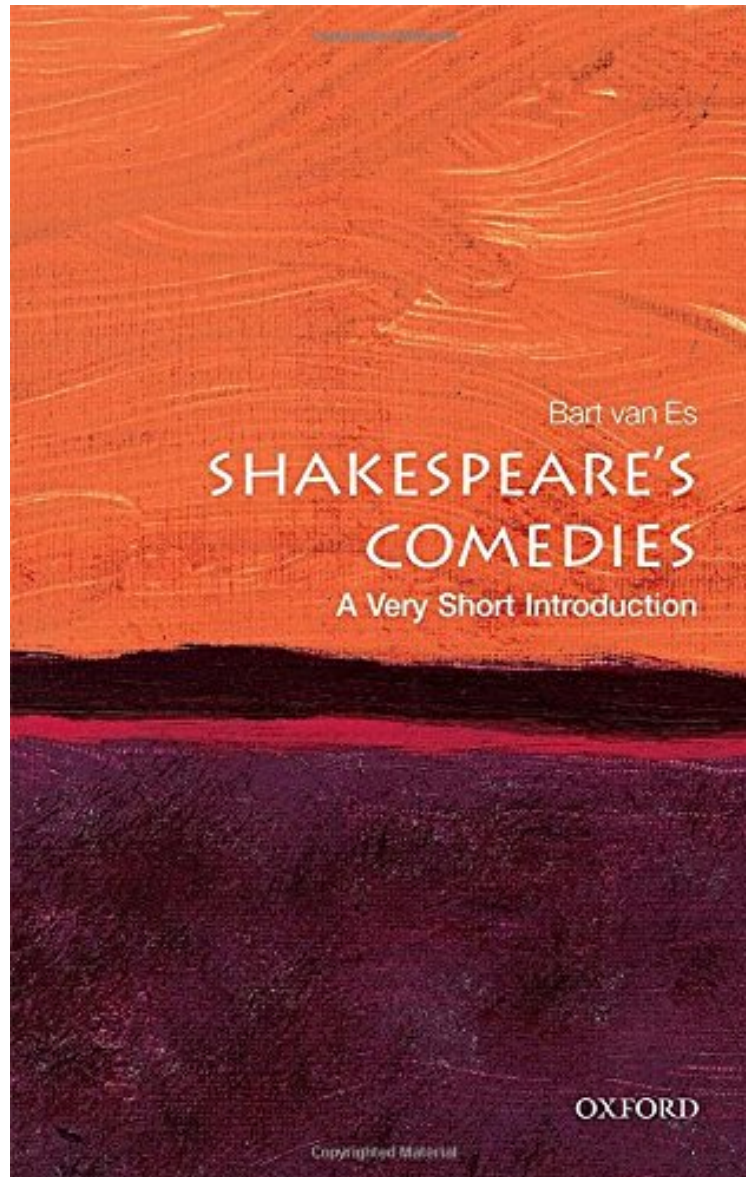


(Download) Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Bart van Es

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Bart van Es : Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

From *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* in the early 1590s to *The Two Noble Kinsmen* at the end of his career around 1614, Shakespeare wrote at least eighteen plays that can be called 'comedies': a far higher number than that for any other genre in which he wrote. So what is a Shakespearean comedy? We associate these plays with such themes as mistaken identities, happy marriages, and exuberant cross dressing, but how representative are these of the oeuvre as a whole? In this Very Short Introduction, Bart van Es explores the full range of the playwright's comic writing, from the neat classical plotting of early works like *The Comedy of Errors* to the corrupt world of the so-called problem plays, written in the middle years of Shakespeare's life. Examining Shakespeare's influences and sources, van Es compares his plays to those of his rivals, and looks at the history of the plays in performance, from the biographies of Shakespeare's original actors to the plays' endless reinvention in modern stage productions and in films. Identifying the key qualities that make Shakespearean comedy distinctive, van Es traces the changing nature of Shakespeare's comic writing over the course of a career that spanned nearly a quarter century of theatrical change.

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Finally, Bart van Es's *Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction* can be read in two or three sittings and still manages to be remarkably comprehensive. Aimed at a general readership, the slim volume is nonetheless carefully researched and full of original ideas and connections." - Kevin Curran, *Studies in English Literature*

About the Author Bart van Es studied at Cambridge and is now a University Lecturer and Fellow in English at St Catherine's College, Oxford. He is the author of *Spenser's Forms of History* (OUP, 2002) and *Shakespeare in Company* (OUP, 2013), and is the editor of *A Critical Companion to Spenser Studies* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2005). He has published many articles on Renaissance poetry and drama and is now conducting research into the children's acting companies that were rivals to Shakespeare's stage.