

SHAKESPEARE THE TRUE STORY

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 to middle-class Catholic parents. They sent him to school with books in a school bag to the schools in Stratford. At a very young age (5-7) he encountered Queen Elizabeth. She made a big fuss of the boy, as she loved children. The schooling he received and his parents fostered a love of poems and Royal history. However he often skipped school preferring to be out doors and hated school as it made out his hero (Elizabeth) was bad for the country.

Around 12 or 13 years of age he found out that the Queen was at Kenilworth Castle during the hot summer of that year. So he went to school (with his bag) as usual and truanted off, walking in the direction of the castle. Meanwhile the Queen and Robert Dudley were hunting in the area where Shakespeare lived. The hunting hounds found the young boy and chased him to the direction where the Queen and Dudley were watching the hunt. When William ran towards them, the Queen spotted that he would fall into a dangerous area and warned him off. But poor Shakespeare was 'star-struck' and ran away!

The effort had made William hot and when he found a pool by a river it was too tempting and he lay his school bag down and went to the pool taking his clothes off. Unknown to William, the Queen had followed him on her horse (and on her own) and was watching the scene at the pool. Shakespeare was a good looking lad and she liked him! However the Queen's horse was not interested in keeping quiet and startled



William, so that he fell in the pool. The Queen (despite laughing) helped the lad out. While William dried himself off, the Queen noticed the bag and went through the contents. William had already written sonnets to her and other poems and the Queen was very impressed. She realised he was clever and offered the chance to get a really good education, leading to university. But Shakespeare told her about the schooling he had and saying about Elizabeth shouldn't be Queen, so he didn't want anymore of that because it was wrong. Instead the Queen took him to the court, showing him off. William also looked a bit like Robert and rumours spread around the court that Shakespeare was the love child of the Queen and Dudley!



Nevertheless William became very useful and the Queen presented him to the court entertainers. Where William met Christopher Marlowe, who had also been spotted by the Queen offered an education, however he accepted, but he also wanted to be on the stage. William can be seen with others in a picture of the Queen and Robert Dudley dancing, he's the one on the far left, above him playing a fiddle is Marlowe. William Cecil also found William useful, especially when the Queen told him about William's (closet Catholic) school. Shakespeare was a bit naive and told him all about the Catholic households that were not keen on the Queen, which he knew of.

Shakespeare was also very attractive to the local girls in Stratford. The Queen was disappointed to find out that William had a girlfriend called Ann Whateley, whose father was connected to the wool trade of his own father. Ann wasn't the only one interested in William. Katherine Hamlet was very keen on him and another woman,

who William said she looked like the Queen, called Anne Hathaway who despite being older than him was well known for her beauty. She was painted by Hilliard (later on) showing she had brown hair.



At the age of 14 William's and Ann's fathers had arranged with the old Catholic priest of Temple Grafton for them to marry. William did not mind as he loved her, but Kath Hamlet did. Katherine shortly after the wedding went to their house and waited for William to leave. Ann and Katherine then had a massive row and a fight left Ann knocked out and Katherine fearing her dead ran away. During the fight a fire must have started and the house went up in flames. Shakespeare who was not too far away went back when he saw the mass of smoke. Ann had come around and was screaming inside the house, trapped unable to get out. Shakespeare could not save her and she burned to death. Ann Shakespeare was buried in 1579.

Katherine Hamlet turned up again and wanted to marry William, although he did not know it was her fault that his wife had died, he still rejected her. Yet Kath did know it was her fault and guilt ridden, she drowned herself in the river Avon. Shakespeare thus had now two deaths to deal with and he blamed himself for both. Anne Hathaway did her best to comfort him, but it was the Queen who helped the most. He was now well in with her and could get what he wanted.

Now the Queen was extremely beautiful and he was now fully smitten with her. But she also had an inferiority complex the size of Mount Everest. The Queen's shyness was however a pain in the backside for William and try as he might he could not understand why she did not see how beautiful she was.



However he made her laugh and so plays were written about the Queen and her life, the court, plus other things he heard about or knew, weaved around plots that were popular or stories like Romeo & Juliet, and Royal history. So the Queen's Men formed in 1582 began with specially selected actors around William Shakespeare. During 1582 to 1587 they performed all the major plays set out in the order of the Works of 1623.

Marlowe became his best friend acting on the stage with him and the musicians (and actors in the Works' list) in the court all enjoyed a rich pickings. Marlowe flumped the exams at University, but Walsingham and the Queen made sure class privilege got him the degree. Not for spying, but they liked him acting and he developed the idea of being the official Queen's flattery, which tickled the Queen pink (literally) as she tended to look white (due to heavy period bleeds).

Shakespeare also used females on the stage. Angela and Emillia

Bassano and their mother Margaret Johnson had special privilege granted on them that allowed them to act on the stage after the Queen found out they had done so anyway! Later in life they both had their portraits painted, Emillia in the role of Anne Bolyn and Angela by Nicholas Hilliard in 1593 aged 26.



William however failed to have sex with the Queen and so resolved to marry Hathaway, he didn't have much choice as she was pregnant. All the actors went to the wedding, including Marlowe, but the Queen was kept in dark. Marlowe fell for Anne and she became his muse.

Meanwhile Shakespeare and the Queen carried on with the plutonic love affair, however there was kissing. And nobody untrustworthy knew. His youthful innocence had gone and William had mastered his sex drive and would have sex with any woman who offered it. And plenty did, with the exception of the Queen.

Marlowe however would go to Shakespeare's house and eventually persuade Anne that William was having sex with the Queen. Anne was also highly sexed (like her husband) and they had sex together. Later on she would have sex with Emillia, who felt sorry for her when her husband was having sex with all the other women he had. Anne however was caught by one of William's loyal servants, who told his master. After getting angry and hitting the poor man, in disbelief, Shakespeare set a trap for the lovers. He pretended to go out during the night and leave them alone. He then returned in the dead of night, to find them in the best bed together. Anger took control of Shakespeare for a short while as he chased Marlowe with a sword. After which he froze them out of his world. This went on for some time until one day in 1587 the tension between the two men explodes during a stage performance. And the two men started sword fencing for real in public! The fight was stopped and Shakespeare and Marlowe were summoned to appear in front of the Queen. It's likely that both were reluctant to say what the fight was about, but the Queen pressed hard and Marlowe snapped. By this time Marlowe had become almost rewarded with the unofficial title as the 'Queen's Flattery'. The Queen hated flattery, but when Marlowe did it, it was so funny. Partial because he was really being two-faced with her and she did not know. So Marlowe blurted out the truth, in that it was about Shakespeare's wife. Then Shakespeare said it was about him sleeping with his wife. This made the Queen furious with the both, but especially William. He had no real defence, but Marlowe did and wasn't going to let the Queen destroy what he had built up and made it clear that if the Queen took action on the adultery thing he would expose her doings with a married man. So William had another fight with Marlowe and the Queen had them chucked out of the palace. The first effect was the breaking up of the 'Queen's Men'. The other actors and writers distanced themselves from the two men and put pressure on the Queen to allow them to continue. The Queen could see the point and allowed new companies to be formed. But they had to make a living not from the Royal 'purse'.

Marlowe didn't care for her patronage anyway and saw this as his break and the plays he wrote followed quickly. Shakespeare struggled! She made it clear he was not to write brand new plays. He sent her some more sonnets and she sent her final sonnets to him. Shakespeare then tried every trick in the book to get back in the Queen's book, even paying Hilliard to paint a miniature of him holding the Queen's hand. He tried to get the Earl of Southampton to intercede on his behalf, by paying the Earl over a thousand pounds. The Earl was the proverbial upper-class twit and let anyone have his patronage for money. In the end it was Shakespeare's friends that persuade the Queen to let him perform and write again. However the conditions were tough. So from 1589 Shakespeare starts putting out his rewritten plays on the public theatres. In the same year he also married another



woman called Barbara Stiffe, whilst still married to Anne, they had at least two female children together. But Barbara died in 1610.

However it was Marlowe who got the blame for ending the Gravy Train! Even the nick-name of 'Kit' was probably an insult. Somebody commissioned Hilliard to show him on fire! He was made fun of in plays such as the *Shoemaker's Holiday* and *The Cobbler of Canterbury*.

Marlowe hit back at his critics by having Hilliard paint a stylistic image of himself walking through thorns.



Marlowe's death in 1593, might well have been at the request of the Queen, but he had more enemies than friends and with the exception of Shakespeare; most of the entertainment circle would have cheered at his death.

The death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603 shook Shakespeare to his bones. A few knew what she had died from. Ever since the Essex rising of 1601 and his death the Queen had gone into a depression that no-one could pull her out of. The physical effect on the Queen was to cut her food intake to near zero. Her food intake in the past was not great and like a supermodel on a diet she starved herself to death. The most visible effect being her cheeks, her fat reserve used up they were so hollow she stuffed herself with cloths to fill them out. Eventually her body gave out and she would have died of the effects of malnutrition.

King James however loved plays and things nearly returned to normal.



Shakespeare wasn't much interested in writing new plays so his output was small. James however had a problem he couldn't get his Queen pregnant. So even while Elizabeth was alive Shakespeare had been having sex with Anne of Denmark with full consent of her husband, as Shakespeare had got a reputation for making babies! In the days of arranged marriages men didn't always like their wives, but Shakespeare always would oblige!

Shakespeare had always drunk heavily and by 1616 was suffering from cancers caused by the abuse. In a lot of pain from time to time, he made out his will, leaving only the worn best bed to his wife, because that's where he caught her! Ben Jonson and Michael Drayton apparently came to see him and he couldn't resist a drinking



binge. It was his last. His liver packed in and Shakespeare went yellow and developed a high fever. Jonson, his wife and Drayton as well as Shakespeare's lawyer watched the end. It was not a pleasant one as poisons entered his brain making him say all sorts of things and some really nasty things too. He also spurted out foreign languages, but most of the abuse was aimed at his wife. He died in agony of liver failure.

Even before the will was made Shakespeare had destroyed manuscripts and his library of books, because he had turned puritan in his ways. Possibly also to protect Elizabeth's reputation as well, he had already objected to the Sonnets, being published. Fortunately they had already had the traces of or Elizabeth's name removed from the parts she wrote. His wife however still repentant of her deed refused permission for an elaborate funeral and objected to a request by his friends to publish all the works they had copies of.

Eventually when she died the friends had their way and also staged a big service for the man who they loved. They had his works printed and they laid out all the actors' names in the book, except Christopher Marlowe. They couldn't mention the two actresses' for legal reasons, but Shakespeare gave Emilia some of his poems as a keep sake, before he decided to destroy most of them. Unfortunately Emilia lost a great deal of money and tried to make some money out of the poems adding things herself, because Shakespeare taught her to write prows. However the book fell foul of the law and only limited copies were ever made.

So thanks to Elizabeth and Marlowe people now think that Shakespeare did not write the plays. However the plays themselves hold massive clues to real history of the Tudor courts from the time of Henry VIII and what was really said in the Court of Queen Elizabeth the first.