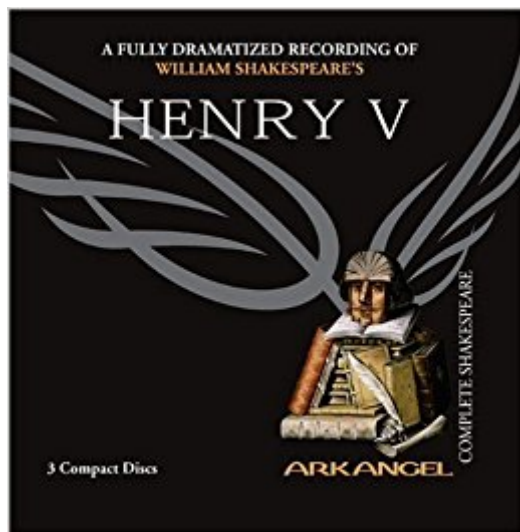


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Henry V (Arkangel Shakespeare)



Synopsis

[Full-Cast Audio Theater Dramatization. Henry is played by Jamie Glover, Brian Cox is the Chorus, and the Hostess is played by Elizabeth Spriggs.] Henry V is a study of kingship, patriotism, and heroic determination tempered by tender comedy as Henry courts Katherine, princess of France. Henry, the noble and courageous young king of England, decides to invade France, believing he has a rightful claim to the throne. At Agincourt he leads his army into battle against the powerful French forces and, against all the odds, wins a famous victory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Shakespeare (1564-1616), English poet and dramatist of the Elizabethan and early Jacobean period, is the most widely known author in all of English literature and often considered the greatest. He was an active member of a theater company for at least twenty years, during which time he wrote many great plays. Plays were not prized as literature at the time, and Shakespeare was not widely read until the middle of the eighteenth century, when a great upsurge of interest in his works began that continues today.

Story - No comment: it is a classic. However, read the Wikipedia synopsis or Spark's Notes for the historical commentaries about the play's themes and the summary of other play to gain a better understanding of the play. Production: Overall, it is the usual very good product from Archangel. I have bought several of their Shakespearean dramas. No issues with their actors, music, play interpretation, or sound.

I think everyone should own a copy. Of course nothing beats Sir Laurence Olivier's 1944 filmed production. The two go hand in hand.

One of the best dramas on war. Very current in terms of issues presented provided the Epilogue is read!

I specifically bought this edition for the critical essay as I needed it for my Shakespeare class. This really upsets me because I paid for something that was not there.

"Henry V" is one of the greatest plays of all time, and one of many truly great plays written by William Shakespeare. He is the true author of this 224-page, February 1962 paperback, but the form in which it is presented- a small paperback book- is the work of many more people. It is part of the series "The Laurel Shakespeare" and was printed by the Dell Publishing Company, Inc. of New York, New York. The book's age is quite visible- its pages and covering have the visible signs of a book that has aged well but unmistakably. In the "Modern Commentary" by Joseph Papp, the word Negro is used at least once when speaking about the casting of Williams. I wasn't much bothered and I don't think it to be something worth raising a fuss over, but it shows the book's age in one more way. At that time, in 1962, such words were still used and by many considered acceptable. The cover, on the top left corner, also shows something worth noting- a marker for a standard selling price of 35 cents. How long has it been since 35c could buy...anything? Nevermind a brand-new paperback book. What money was worth in 1962 and what it is worth now- the difference is quite staggering. Finally, the suggestions for further reading made by Francis Fergusson, General Editor, may not be but so easy to find now. Some of the books mentioned were first printed as long ago as 1924. Don't know how much luck you're going to find books from such years as that now. After the commentary provided in the book- and my notes on just how old this book is getting to be- the play is more or less the rest of the book. An extensive glossary providing definitions of many terms is available towards the end of the book. The play is as it should be, with plenty of notes, details, and a full list of characters under the title "Dramatis Personae". Straightforward and well-put-together, this 1962 printing of the magnificent play "Henry V" is my favorite edition of this play in book form. It is a small book, easily carried even on one's pocket. It is old and not easily replaceable, however, so if you should come across a copy I advise you to take care of it. The book's small size and modest price would, if you could find enough of this edition, make it an ideal

version of "Henry V" to buy in large numbers and torment- I mean educate and impress- a high school or college English class. I can certainly recommend this one.

The material to understand this late-medieval conqueror is more abundant than one realizes: not only detailed chronicles, State documents and accounts of his wars, but personal anecdotes and financial records. And Hutchison makes good use of it, working not from secondary but from primary sources, giving a detailed, perceptive and highly readable account of a remarkable individual. If he works to contrast the Henry of history with the Henry of Shakespeare, that is understandable and indeed right, since it is through the plays - and especially through Laurence Olivier's unforgettable film - that most of us have become aware, if at all, of the fame and success of this usurper's son. Hutchison treats his subject with a sympathy that does not stop short of admiration, giving just and honourable due to all his remarkable qualities - able politician, bold and independent mind, excellent organizer, and finally, as everyone knows, superlative soldier. Yet his final verdict is inevitably negative: Henry stiffened the social situation of England, threw the country into a war which it did not have the resources to maintain, and which - but for his genius - would have ended in disaster early on (there is something very telling about the frenzied rejoicing which greeted his victories); brutalized his followers, degraded the rule of warfare, and, in the end, presided over the spiritual impoverishment and material ruin of two great countries, as the great age of Chaucer and the *Roman de la Rose* died out in a sea of blood and even the military glory of Henry gave way, not so much to the splendid but brief phenomenon of St. Joan of Arc, as to the crooked and cruel practical politics of Louis XI, the establishment of brutal royal tyranny in France and the collapse into civil war in England. Like that of all conquerors - think of Alexander of Macedon, of Gengis Khan, of Napoleon, Wallenstein, Gustavus Adolphus, Charles XII of Sweden, Hitler - Henry's ultimate legacy was purely one of collapse and negation: he achieved nothing except a blaze of unconstructive glory.

The final play in Shakespeare's so-called first tetralogy, this is Shakespeare's 'action movie' play in many ways, and is better suited to a stage or film than an audio production. King Henry V is here played by the same actor (Jamie Glover) who played Hal in *Henry IV* (see my reviews of those), and now as king he alters his voice appropriately. He doesn't deliver the fiery war speeches with appropriate intensity ("Will you yield, and this avoid?" etc.), but is great in the scene where he walks unknown among the troops on the night before the battle. The comic interludes are a bit flat compared to the *Henry IV* plays (Falstaff's presence is sorely missed), but the scene where

Princess Katherine tries to learn English and finds it obscene is very funny. And despite my own distrust of the nation state, it's impossible not to be moved by the feeling of the English being underdogs, as vividly evoked by the Chorus (Brian Cox). When this was set, the nation state was still in its infancy though - and not in its dotage as currently.

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