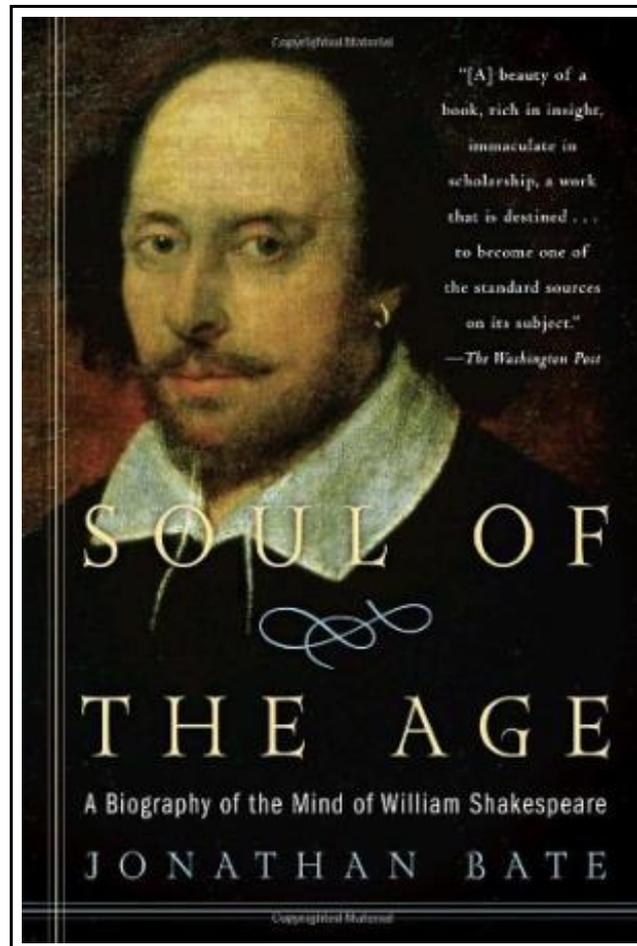


Soul of the Age: A Biography of the Mind of William Shakespeare



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Reviews

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(Tomas Flatley)

SOUL OF THE AGE: A BIOGRAPHY OF THE MIND OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Random House, Inc., New York, 2010. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 1st Trade Paperback Edition. New paperback, 1st edition (2010) w/ full no. line showing 1st printing, handsome new color-illustrated cover w sharp new edges & corners, immaculate text block exterior, new uncreased binding, pristine interior handsomely printed on very good unblemished paper * 6.12" x 9.12" x 1.06", 0.52 kg, xix+471 (490) pp. * List of illustrations (xiii), Introduction (xv), Acknowledgments (425), Notes (427), Index (457) * 22 choice portraits, maps & other b-w illustrations throughout the text * In this illuminating, innovative biography, Jonathan Bate, one of today's most accomplished Shakespearean scholars, has found a fascinating new way to tell the story of the great dramatist. Using the Bard's own immortal list of a man's seven ages in 'As You Like It', Bate deduces the crucial events of Shakespeare's life & connects them to his world & work as never before. Here is the author as an infant, born into a world of plague & syphilis, diseases w/ which he became closely familiar; as a schoolboy, a position he portrayed in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor', in which a clever, cheeky lad named William learns Latin grammar; as a lover, married at 18 to an older woman already pregnant, perhaps presaging Bassanio, who in 'The Merchant of Venice' won a wife who could save him from financial ruin. Here, too, is Shakespeare as a soldier, writing Henry the 5th's St. Crispin's Day speech, w/ a nod to his own monarch Elizabeth I's passionate addresses; as a justice, revealing his possible legal training in his precise use of the law in plays from Hamlet to Macbeth; & as a pantaloon, an early retiree because of, Bate postulates, either illness or a scandal. Finally, Shakespeare enters...



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