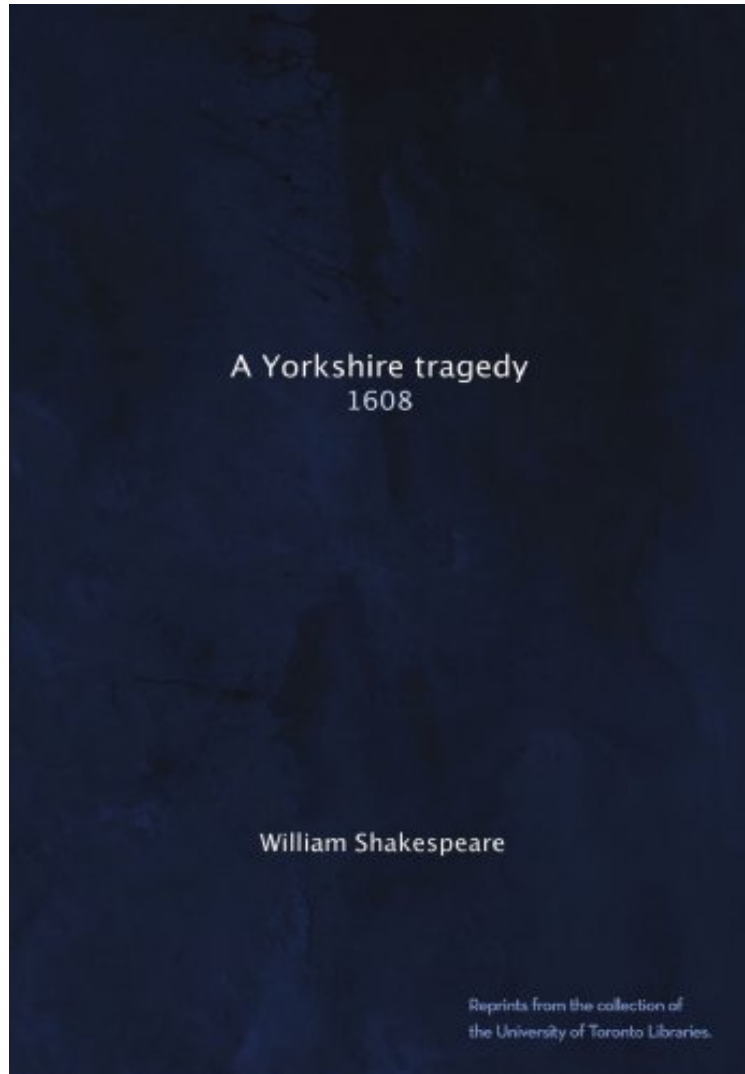


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## A Yorkshire tragedy: 1608

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**William Shakespeare : A Yorkshire tragedy: 1608** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Yorkshire tragedy: 1608:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Puritan in the eggBy Dr Jacques COULARDEAUNo use insisting on the non-Shakespearian nature of this very short play that is more in the style, a minor form of it, of Ben Jonson's The Silent Woman.On the other hand the style is typical of the mounting Puritanism that is arriving in England after Elizabeth I. More than crimes this "tragedy" which is a melodramatic play at best, is about sins.A rich man ruins himself by gambling and seeking pleasure. His depravation leads his own brother to prison to be executed because of the debts he has covered for this man, his own brother mind you.The man is a father of three sons and he is suddenly taken by some furious madness when his brother's fate is announced. In that fit of madness he kills two of his children

and tries to kill his own wife. It is then that the establishment, justice and police, intervenes and arrests him for trial and punishment. He is at this moment taken by some remorse that is at least too late. What can we make of this play? 1- It is a moralistic very superficial treatment of the subject. The cynical half witty opening with the three servants does not salvage it at all. 2- It is the sign of the arrival of James I who will not contain puritan ideology because he is rather favorable to some amount of Puritanism at least. We could here quote the case of his ruling about what kind of sports can be practiced on Sundays, sports that are not sinful and a practice which must not be for pleasure but for the keeping of the body fit for fighting if necessary. Of course legal fighting for the king. 3- The theme of infanticide crimes is not new at all, though it is generally attributed to women. In the tradition of the time we had Siegfried's wife who kills her children, or has them killed. We have Snow White in the Germanic tradition. In Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus one child of the defeated queen is sacrificed and we have the tradition of children killed and fed to the mother in the form of pt. And of course Medea who kills her two sons to punish her husband's betrayal. 4- The connection of infanticide crimes and witchcraft is also present at the time with Doctor Faustus, famous in England because of Marlowe's play. Margaret is impregnated by Faustus and the mother is drugged to enable that event. The fate of the mother and that of the child are at stake in the tale, and later on Faustus will get a son from Helen of Troy and that son will die when he tries to fly to the sun with the wax wings his father has built for him. The return of Daedalus and Icarus. I will say to conclude this play is in line with many things but is flat and lackluster in all possible ways. Dr Jacques COULARDEAU

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About the Author The father in municipal office. In July 1564, when William was three months old, the plague raged with unwonted vehemence at Stratford, and his father liberally contributed to the relief of its poverty-stricken victims. Fortune still favoured him. On July 4, 1565, he reached the dignity of an alderman. From 1567 onwards he was accorded in the corporation archives the honourable prefix of Mr. At Michaelmas 1568 he attained the highest office in the corporation gift, that of bailiff, and during his year of office the corporation for the first time entertained actors at Stratford. The Queens Company and the Earl of Worcesters Company each received from John Shakespeare an official welcome. On September 5, 1571, he was chief alderman, a post which he retained till September 30 the following year. In 1573 Alexander Webbe, the husband of his wife's sister Agnes, made him overseer of his will; in 1575 he bought two houses in Stratford, one of them doubtless the alleged birthplace in Henley Street; in 1576 he contributed twelvepence to the beadles salary. But after Michaelmas 1572 he took a less active part in municipal affairs; he grew irregular in his attendance at the council meetings, and signs were soon apparent that his luck had turned. In 1578 he was unable to pay, with his colleagues, either the sum of fourpence for the relief of the poor or his contribution towards the furniture of three pikemen, two bellmen, and one archer who were sent by the corporation to attend a muster of the trained bands of the county. Brothers and sisters. Meanwhile his family was increasing. Four children besides the poet's three sons, Gilbert (baptised October 13, 1566), Richard (baptised March 11, 1574), and Edmund (baptised May 3, 1580), with a daughter Joan (baptised April 15, 1569) reached maturity. A daughter Ann was baptised September 28, 1571, and was buried on April 4, 1579. To meet his growing liabilities, the father borrowed money from his wife's kinsfolk, and he and his wife mortgaged, on November 14, 1578, Asbies, her valuable property at Wilmcote, for 40 to Edmund Lambert of Barton-on-the-Heath, who had married her sister, Joan Arden. Lambert was to receive no interest on his loan, but was to take the rents and profits of the estate.