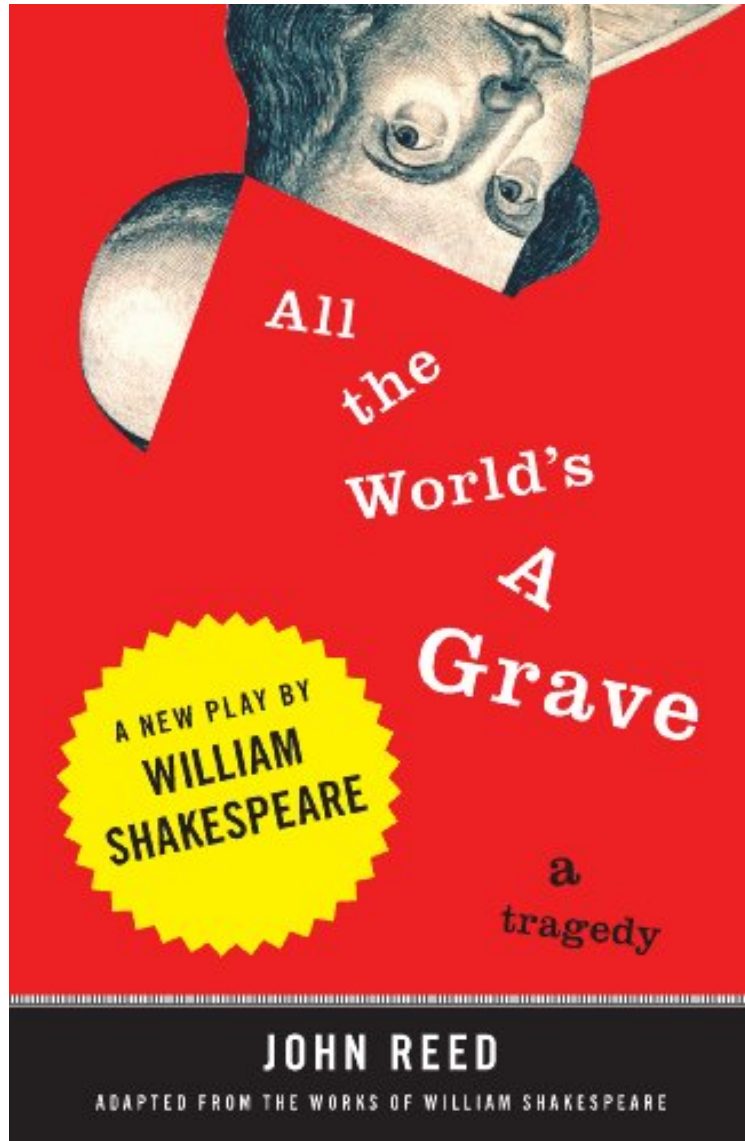


[FREE] All the World's a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare

## All the World's a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare

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**From Plume : All the World's a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All the World's a Grave: A New Play by William Shakespeare:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I loved it. Drawing on Shakespeare's long tradition of stealing ...By A. J. H.Review originally written in 2012:3.5 stars. The minute I read about the concept of this "new" Shakespeare play, I loved it. Drawing on Shakespeare's long tradition of stealing every plot and structural conceit possible, Reed simply takes apart Shakespeare's canon (primarily Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, King Lear, Romeo Juliet and Henry V)

and reassembled the Bard's most famous lies and speeches into an entirely new play. Hamlet, the prince of Bohemia, has gone to war and won Lear's daughter Juliet for his bride. However, when he returns to Bohemia and discovers his father is dead and his mother has married Macbeth, and Iago begins to suggest that the lovely Juliet is having an affair with Hamlet's handsome Captain Romeo, things begin to spiral out of control. So, I loved the plot, I love the concept, but I struggled with the execution because honestly, I wanted more integration of the plays. Some scenes were great, piecing together dialogue from 4 or 5 different plays in one seamless new conversation. On the other hand, Act II was pretty much Act II of Macbeth, but with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern taking the roles of Ross and Angus. Also, recycling many of the famous speeches into new contexts was fun, but there was such great opportunity to meld multiple famous speeches into one new one - especially since the plays already have so much parallel in their language. (Side note: at the time I wrote this review, I was stage managing a production of Hamlet with a company that had recently done both Macbeth and RJ, with several of the same actors in all three, so we were been finding parallels left and right and they were really in the forefront of my mind.) Anyway, I'm rambling about silly things (sorry, English/Theater major), but I did enjoy this one and I do recommend it, especially to Shakespeare geeks who will recognize all of the famous lines and enjoy seeing how they've been reappropriated into an all-new story just as ridiculous as Shakespeare's own canon.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Shakespeare Collage of which Will would be proud! By Will  
This book is as if every famous Shakespearean play was ripped up into tiny pieces, thrown on the floor in scattered bits and then re-collaged together as an entirely new play. Using phrases from every one of Shakespeare's plays, this book was so engrossing that, for the first time in over 20 years of living in NYC, I missed my subway stop because I was so lost in the world that Reed created. Magpie-like, Shakespeare himself was the master of layering bits and pieces of other writer's work into a new narrative text that was uniquely his own and Reed has borrowed from the master's legacy in re-inventing (and, therefore, reinvigorating) the Bard's 400 year old tomes. As an actress, I have been privileged to do readings of this book to packed houses where the audience was always thoroughly enthralled and entertained. As a director, I presented the first full length production of it to standing ovations (during the stirring bits) and pin-drop silences (during the sad). It makes for a wonderfully inventive stage play as well as an entertaining read. Huzzah to Reed for his meticulous research and clever use of language that is as singular, unique and evocative as the original plays which it re-invents for a modern age.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Oh, What Men Dare Do... By Timothy Bracy  
Celebrated literary and social satirist John Reed, who has in previous incarnations ingeniously reconsidered George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' from an opposing political perspective ('Snowball's Chance') and effectively rendered the palpable absurdities of life in the modern media spotlight ('The Hole') takes on his most audacious challenge to date in 'All The World's A Grave.' A remarkably entertaining and assured foray into the most hallowed of literary grounds, 'All The World's A Grave' dares to recast characters from a handful of William Shakespeare's plays in a new drama, in the process theorizing what a play from the bard might look in contemporary times. Luckily, this is no bloodless academic enterprise, but a genuinely gripping narrative, one that takes liberties with the sacrosanct texts while never crossing the line into cheap gimmickry. Reed's highwire act is astonishing, and not one with easy precedent in the world of books. Perhaps a more apt comparison would be to the dreamlike, brilliantly inventive narrative songs of Bob Dylan's mid-sixties work like 'Desolation Row,' where Bette Davis, TS Eliot, Einstein and Ophelia all meet to great artistic effect. This is Reed's best work to date - thought provoking, entertaining and resonant with respect to imagining art as a continuum. Highly recommended.

An epic tragedy of love, war, murder, and madness, plucked from the pages of Shakespeare In "All the World's a Grave," John Reed reconstructs the works of William Shakespeare into a new five-act tragedy. The language is Shakespearean, but the drama that unfolds is as fresh as the blood on the stage. Prince Hamlet goes to war for Juliet, the daughter of King Lear. Having captured Juliet as his bride--by reckless war--he returns home to find that his mother has murdered his father and married Macbeth. Enter Iago, who persuades Hamlet that Juliet is having an affair with Romeo. As the Prince goes mad with jealousy, King Lear mounts his army. . . This play promises to be the most provocative and entertaining work to be added to the Shakespeare canon since Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead."