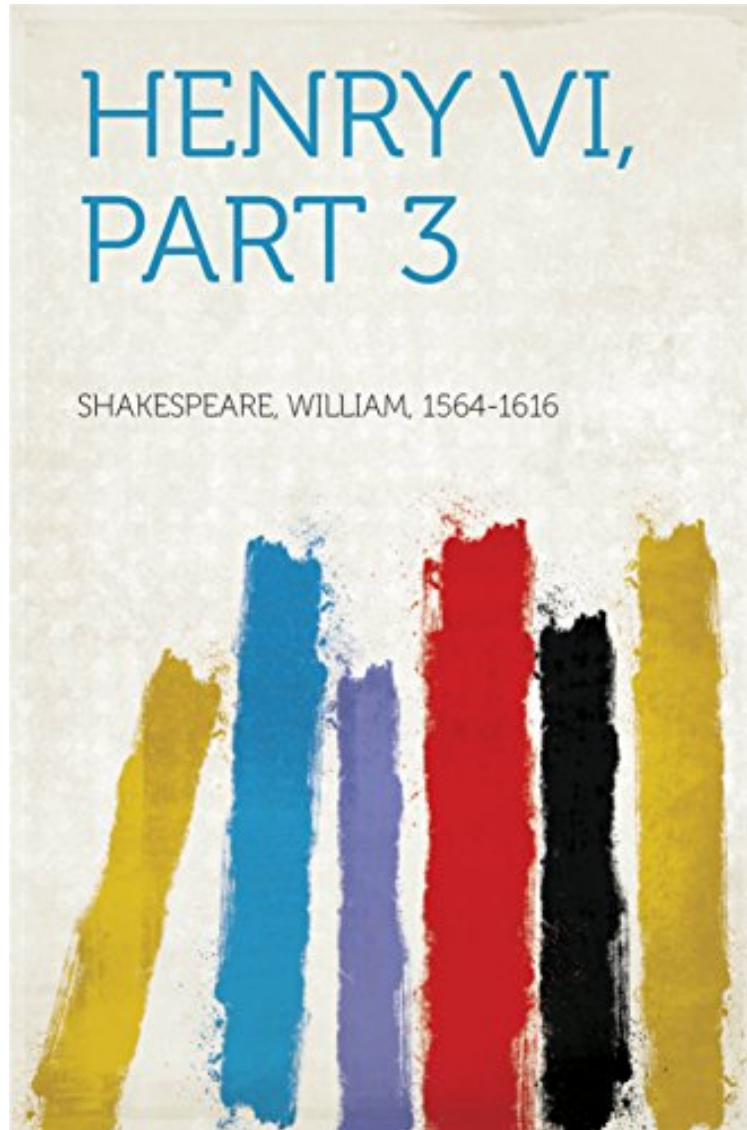


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## Henry VI, Part 3

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**William, 1564-1616 Shakespeare : Henry VI, Part 3** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Henry VI, Part 3:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Always a go-to for first time Shakespeare readers By G.S. There are better publishings of Shakespeare, but Folger has some of the most accessible formatting, punctuation, and notes for first time readers. Every time I start working on a Shakespeare play, I start by reading the Folger version. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The intruder within... By Vincent Poirier Fans of the original Star Trek series no doubt remember the episode where a transporter malfunction caused Captain James Kirk to split in two. At first, Kirk

appears to have materialized normally but a few seconds after everyone leaves the transporter room, a double appears. Except that he's not a double, he is the wicked half of the whole Kirk while the first Kirk is really just the nice half of the whole man. At first neither knows of the other's existence. The first Kirk carries out his duties conscientiously, manning the bridge though he doesn't feel well. The second Kirk prowls the ship, thinking only of gratifying his wants. However, when a crisis unfolds, the first Kirk is weak and cannot make decisions for fear of the consequences to others. The second Kirk makes one decision after another but they all harm someone because he doesn't care. Everyone likes and respects the first Kirk, but he knows he's useless. The two parts of the man need to merge back together. The point is clear. Love, diligence, responsibility aren't enough. Leadership and command demand strength and an iron will or the leader will fail. Which brings us back to Henry VI Part Three. In this play we are shown what happens when the crown is set on the head of a weakling. In the previous two plays, Shakespeare blames ambitious courtiers fighting one another for the woes that befall England, leaving Henry more of a spectator. Here, events overtake Henry because his weakness keeps him from defending himself and his realm. The pious Henry is a good likable man, but he is better suited to quiet prayer than to war. The three parts of Henry VI and Richard III are more tightly bound than are any of Shakespeare's linked plays. Henry VI Part Three begins with a battle started in Part Two. Richard of York believes he has a better claim to the English Crown than does Henry, throwing the country into civil war. In the very first scene, Richard's son Edward and his ally Montague show York swords stained with the blood of his enemies. His younger son Richard of Gloucester outdoes them and holds up the head of the Duke of Somerset, the man who in the Part One first stood against York by sporting a red rose against his white one. But what of the counterpart to Henry? What of wilful evil men? Henry VI is captured and dies. His assassin is Richard of Gloucester, who will later become Richard III. It's in that final play of the cycle that we see what happens when the crown is set on the head of a strong but evil man. Vincent Poirier, Tokyo 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not one of Shakespeare's best by a long shot. By James Yannias with most of Shakespeare's "history plays", there's just enough actual "history" here to give a novice a vague idea of what happened, but for heaven's sake, don't make the mistake of thinking that having read it, you have any real idea of the history of the period. It does give a good feeling for the ping-pong game that was the British monarchy during the period; "Look, Henry's the king. No, wait a minute, now the ball's in Edward's court. Now it's back to Henry, now Edward. It's close match here, folks; there's no telling who's going to wind up the winner." It isn't one of Shakespeare's more memorable plays; there aren't many great soliloquies or even lines to quote, but it is Shakespeare, so the language, while archaic enough to require a bit of practice to parse, is still very pretty. But overall, the play will never hold a candle to "Henry IV, part 1"; there aren't really any characters that the reader can feel an attachment to.

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About the Author 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.