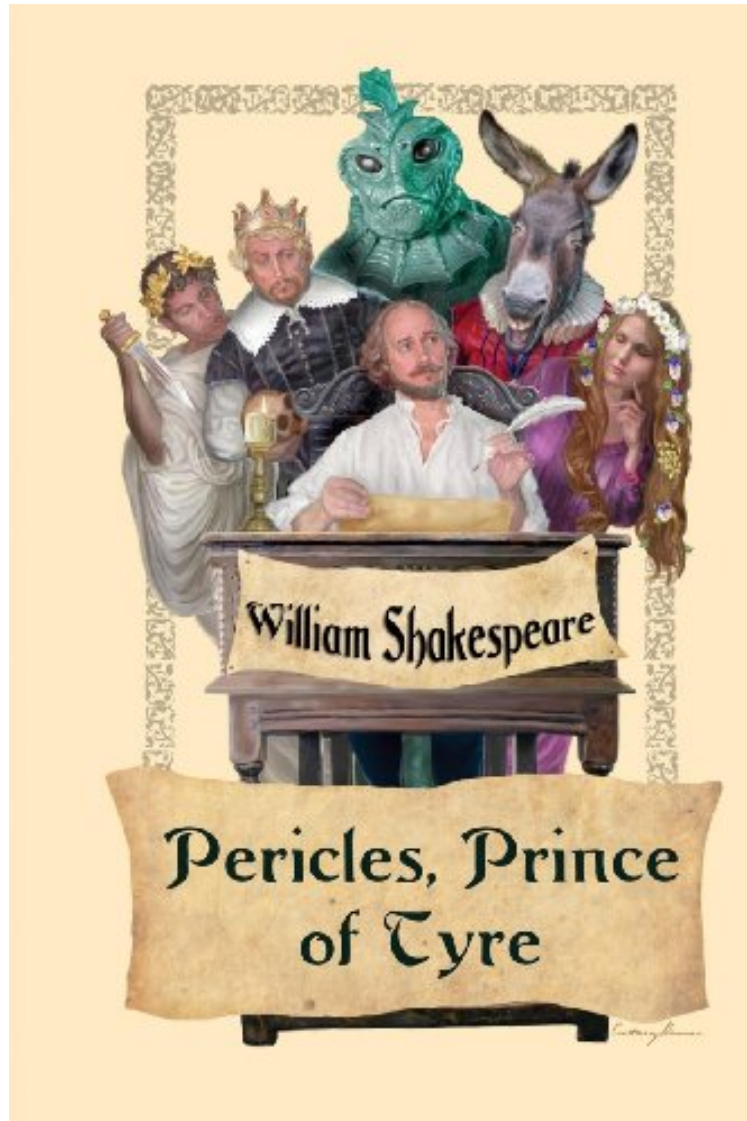


Pericles, Prince of Tyre

William Shakespeare

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William Shakespeare : Pericles, Prince of Tyre before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pericles, Prince of Tyre:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Love Story Wrapped in AdventureBy Ricardo MioPericles, Prince of Tyre, is a fantastic voyage of sea and mind, where nothing is as what it first appears to be, where the worst disasters and the greatest losses are offset by miraculous recoveries and joyous reunions. Both applauded and mocked in its day, Pericles did not appear in the First Folio, possibly because the text was known to be corrupt. The general opinion is Shakespeare wrote the last three acts, while someone else (thought to be George Wilkins) wrote the first two. No matter; it's a love story wrapped in adventure. We are drawn in by the riddle, the shipwreck and the wooing,

the storm and the loss, and the final reunion of Pericles and Thaisa. The play involves a lot of travel, reminiscent of the old Rick Nelson song ("I'm a travelin' man, made a lot of stops all over the world"). That's what Pericles does, travel by sea and make a lot of stops all over the Greek world (Antioch, Tyre, Tarsus, Pentapolis, Mytilene and Ephesus). The story begins with a riddle, propounded by Antiochus, King of Antioch, which Pericles solves. The answer, which no one has found (death is the penalty of failure), is that father and daughter are having an incestuous relationship. Death is the penalty of solving the riddle too, it turns out, and Pericles must escape. Back in Tyre he leaves Helicanus to govern in his absence and sets off for Tarsus where he relieves the famine-stricken city. Still pursued by one of Antiochus's assassins, he puts to sea once again, only to be shipwrecked on the shore of Pentapolis. A tournament in that fair city is underway, which Pericles wins. He also wins the heart of the king's daughter, Thaisa (pronounced Ty-eesa). They are married, and when Pericles learns it's safe to return to Tyre, the two board a ship for his home. During a great sea storm, Thaisa gives birth to a daughter, Marina. Thought to be dead, Thaisa is put in a waterproof chest and cast overboard. When the chest arrives on the shore of Ephesus, the noble Cerimon revives Thaisa. Believing she is the only survivor, Thaisa becomes a priestess of Diana's temple. Pericles, meanwhile, returns to Tyre and entrusts the care of infant Marina to Cleon, governor of Tarsus, and his wife Dionyza. Fourteen years pass. Dionyza becomes jealous of Marina who overshadows her own daughter, and plans to have her murdered. Pirates intervene by kidnapping Marina and taking her to Mytilene. She's escaped death only to be put in a brothel. Pericles is unaware of this. Believing his daughter has died, he vows never to wash his face or cut his hair ever again. Marina, meanwhile, whose purity bewilders her employers and startles the good governor, Lysimachus, manages to leave the brothel and find work in an "honest house." Utterly dejected, Pericles travels to Mytilene and meets the good governor, Lysimachus. In order to find him comfort, the governor sends for Marina. The two meet in his ship where Pericles realizes this his daughter. In a dream Diana urges Pericles to go to her temple at Ephesus where he is reunited with Thaisa. All griefs being over, Marina and Lysimachus are married, to live in Tyre, while Pericles and Thaisa make their new home in Pentapolis. And so it ends--happily. I prefer the Pelican Shakespeare edition with its usual insightful introduction by the editor, in this case Stephen Orgel of Stanford University, with notes at the bottom of each page, and slim size, making it handy to read in trains, planes and on park benches. Five stars. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Beware: Kindle version not the Pelican Pericles. By John Taylor. The listing for the Pelican Pericles includes a Kindle version for \$2.51, but if you buy the Kindle version you'll find that it's a digiread.com product, not the Pelican edition -- no introduction, no notes, nothing but the play text. If you want Kindle and would be satisfied with the bare play text, you'd be better off with the Public Domain Kindle edition that lists for \$0.00. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Customer. Perfect.

Deception and Shame-- The play opens in the court of Antiochus, king of Antioch. The king has offered the hand of his beautiful daughter to the man who answers his riddle, but those who fail shall die. Pericles hears the riddle, and immediately understands its meaning: Antiochus is engaged in an incestuous relationship with his daughter. If Pericles reveals this truth, he will be killed, but if he answers incorrectly, he will also be killed. Pericles asks for 40 days to ponder his answer and once the time is granted he flees the city. Contend not, sir; for we are gentlemen, That neither in our hearts, nor outward eyes, Envy the great, nor do the low despise.

About the Author William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616) was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His extant works, including some collaborations, consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses, the authorship of some of which is uncertain. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. He was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children. Between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613.