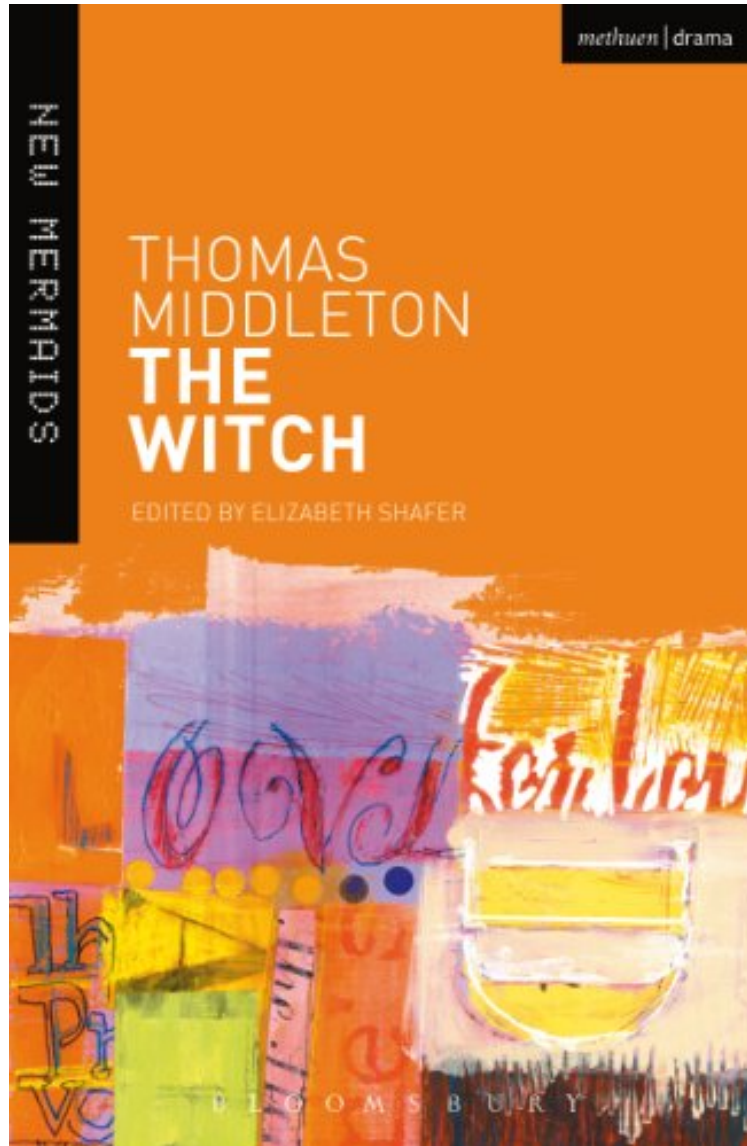


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The Witch (New Mermaids)

Thomas Middleton

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Thomas Middleton : The Witch (New Mermaids) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Witch (New Mermaids):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Laurence wenselThank you!2 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Very telling of the timesBy Lexi E. (dyslexxxia@aol.com)The book is right up there with the works of shakespeare. I enjoyed in thouroughly. it is a classic play which depicts the roles of men and women in literature during the Enlightenment.

The Witch (1615/16?), categorised by its author as 'a tragi-comedy', pits the intrigues of a group of Italian aristocrats against the malevolent practices of Hecate and her witches' coven, leaving the audience with the impression that human malevolence is by far the fiercer and more effective. This edition sets the play into its dramatic and literary contexts, ranging from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Middleton's own later tragedies to Reginald Scot's sceptical *Discovery of Witchcraft* and King James's virulent *Daemonologie*. It also argues that Middleton wrote it as a topical satire to capitalise on the scandal involving Frances Howard, who obtained a divorce from the Earl of Essex on the grounds that he had been sexually incapacitated by witchcraft; she was also rumoured to have tried to poison him. Middleton exposes his noble characters precisely by letting them get away with murder.