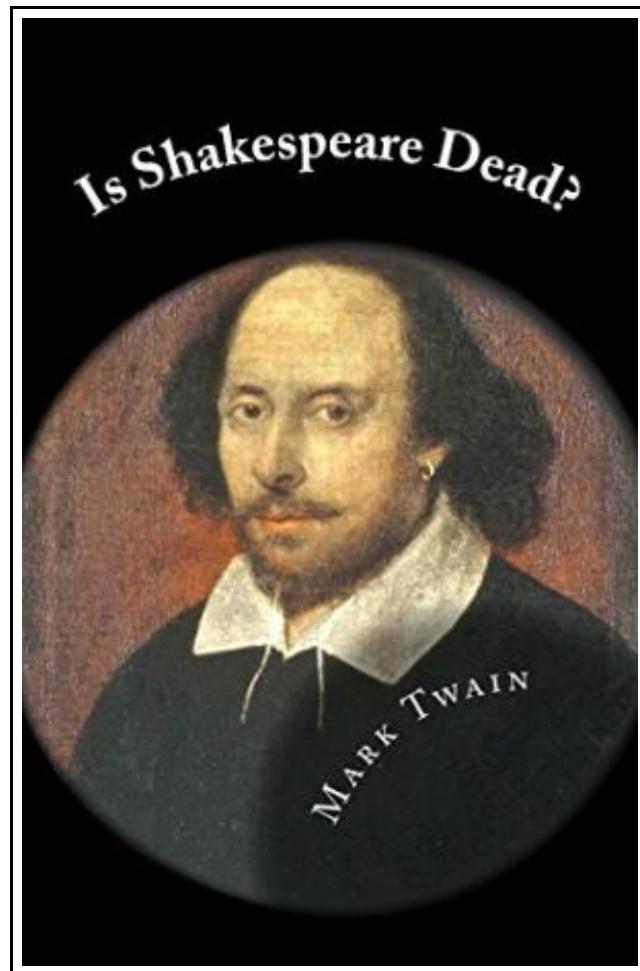


Is Shakespeare Dead



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Reviews

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(Jace Gusikowski IV)

IS SHAKESPEARE DEAD

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 86 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.1in. x 0.2in. *Is Shakespeare Dead* is a short, semi-autobiographical work by American humorist Mark Twain. It explores the controversy over the authorship of the Shakespearean literary canon via satire, anecdote, and extensive quotation of contemporary authors on the subject. It was published in April 1909 by Harper and Brothers, twelve months before Mark Twain's death. The book attracted controversy for incorporating a chapter from *The Shakespeare Problem Restated* by George Greenwood without permission or proper credit, an oversight Twain blamed on the accidental omission of a footnote by the printer. The book has been described as one of his least well received and most misunderstood works. Although she admits that Twain appears to have been sincere in his beliefs concerning Shakespeare, Karen Lystra argues that the essay reveals satirical intentions that went beyond the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy of the time. Though it is commonly assumed to be nothing more than a stale and embarrassing rehash of the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy, Twain was up to something more than flimsy literary criticism. He was using the debate over Shakespeare's real identity to satirize prejudice, intolerance, and self-importance in himself as well as others. . . . But after his passionate diatribe against the Stratfordolators and his vigorous support of the Baconians, he cheerfully admits that both sides are built on inference. Leaving no doubt about his satirical intent, Twain then gleefully subverts his entire argument. After seeming to be a serious, even angry, combatant, he denies that he intended to convince anyone that Shakespeare was not the real author of his works. It would grieve me to know that any one could think so injuriously of me, so uncomplimentarily, so unadmiringly of me, he writes...

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