



The Shakespearean Wild: Geography, Genus, and Gender

By Jeanne Addison Roberts

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The Shakespearean Wild: Geography, Genus, and Gender By Jeanne Addison Roberts

Socrates is said to have thanked the gods that he was born neither barbarian nor female nor animal. His words conjure up the image of a human being, a Greek male, at the center of the universe, surrounded by "wild" and threatening forces. To the Western imagination the civilized standard has always been masculine, and taken for granted as so until recently. Shakespeare's works, for all their genius and astonishing empathy, are inevitably products of a culture that regards women, animals, and foreigners as peripheral and threatening to its chief interests. "We have been so hypnotized by the most powerful male voice in our language, interpreted for us by a long line of male critics and teachers, that we have seen nothing exceptionable in his patriarchal premises," writes Jeanne Addison Roberts.

If the culture-induced hypnosis is wearing off, it is partly because of studies like *The Shakespearean Wild*. Plunging into a psychological jungle, Roberts examines the distinctions in various Shakespeare plays between wild nature and subduing civilization and shows how gender stereotypes are affixed to those distinctions. Taking her cue from Socrates, Roberts transports the reader to three kinds of "Wilds" that impinge on Shakespeare's literary world: the mysterious "female Wild, often associated with the malign and benign forces of [nature]; the animal Wild, which offers both reassurance of special human status and the threat of the loss of that status; and the barbarian Wild populated by marginal figures such as the Moor and the Jew as well as various hybrids."

The Shakespearean Wild brims with mystery and menace, the exotic and erotic; with male and female archetypes, projections of suppressed fears and fantasies. The reader will see how the male vision of culture—exemplified in Shakespeare's work—has reduced, distorted, and oversimplified the potentiality of women.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A significant view of women in Shakespeare against a large background of the Wild. The learning brought to bear on the topic is not only sound but fascinating." Maurice Charney, author of How to Read Shakespeare

About the Author

Jeanne Addison Roberts, a professor of Literature at American University, is the author of *Shakespeare's English Comedy: "The Merry Wives of Windsor" in Context* (1979), also published by the University of Nebraska Press.

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This The Shakespearean Wild: Geography, Genus, and Gender book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of The Shakespearean Wild: Geography, Genus, and Gender without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry The Shakespearean Wild: Geography, Genus, and Gender can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This The Shakespearean Wild: Geography, Genus, and Gender having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

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