



A Woman Killed with Kindness

Thomas Heywood

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A Woman Killed with Kindness Details

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From Reader Review A Woman Killed with Kindness for online ebook

John says

Surprisingly complex play. Lots of talk about the value of women, and of their bodies.

Matt says

A strange play and an interesting window into life during the English Renaissance.

Jeremy says

I did not read this edition. I read a copy from Fossen, *The Revel Plays* (Harvard UP, 1961).

Rosianna says

I read this for my Renaissance tragedy module and I imagine it can either be taken as promoting or satirising the role of women and marriage as commodity. Both Anne and Susan are fairly typical, passive renaissance women, with Anne's husband painted as infinitely kind and generous. The play itself moves quite quickly and is short, so it wouldn't take long to read or watch and for me at least it's strength lies in its ambiguous morality--are we meant to take it seriously?

Nicolas Shump says

I read A Woman Killed with Kindness by Thomas Heywood in an anthology of plays, but what a tremendous work. I am definitely a romantic and somewhat of a sucker for works like this, but I could not put the play down.

It is a gorgeous play full of pathos with sublime poetry. It reminds me of Shakespeare's best work and of Alcestis by Euripides. The subtext with Sir Acton is okay, but I don't know that I buy the love at first sight scenario. This may be my 21st century bias showing.

However, the main theme of the Frankfords is so lovely and tragic. The sheer depth of Mistress Frankford's guilt is astonishing. The idea of killing oneself for shame, while quaint or zealous, is so right in the action of the play. This is love in all of its power and glory. Not the Hallmark love, but the ancient Greek love from Hesiod, who wrote about the dark power of Eros. The deathbed scene is beautiful. I really love this play! Naturally, I am only responding to the literary aspect of this play as for most of the plays I'll read and review I have not seen them performed.

Tar Buendía says

Me ha dejado igual que Arden of Faversham.

No puedo con este tipo de obras pero me resulta muy curiosa la construcción del rol femenino a lo largo de la ficción de siglos.

M.L. Rio says

Sort of the opposite of *The Taming of the Shrew*--instead of being a massive tool to his wife to bully her into submission, a guy whose wife cheats on him is so nice to her that she starves herself to death out of guilt. So, in the end everything still sucks for the women, but that's early modern drama for you.

Manuel says

Kind of ridiculous and the two plots did not merge well together, but they did compliment one another. Overall a great read but filled with some dated ideas on the way marriage and debts work.

Sophie Cochin says

When Shakespeare meets Tennessee Williams. Heavy on the stomach but had a good time reading it.

Roxanne says

I read this play on my trip to New Mexico for a conference. I greatly enjoyed it, and found it easy to follow because of the characters' quick banter. It reads like a soap opera. Indeed, very little of the play is devoid of some sort of drama. But it is very funny (on the part of Susan and her brother). I especially love how Susan stands up for herself even if her giving in saves her brother from being impoverished. Anne, on the other hand, was very foolish to be so easily swayed by her lover. While women at the time were seen as lustful and without power, we know not all women were seen that way because of characters like Susan. Of course, we must account for Susan and Anne's independent marital statuses.

Overall, it was quick and enjoyable, even if Anne does end up starving herself to death.

Collin says

Urgh. A play about my least favorite plot ever, a woman being ritualistically stripped of her dignity and status after an incidence of practically *forced* infidelity. Awesome. Not to mention Sir Charles's truly HEINOUS plan to literally sell his sister into a one-night-stand in order to clear his own fricking debts -

which he incurred by MURDERING TWO PEOPLE - and then being cool with Susan's plan to KILL HERSELF before she could actually sleep with Sir Francis.

Look, pardon my French, but this play takes the cake.

Jess says

Well, that was bloody depressing.

I tend to rate early modern texts by how easy it is to follow them - I'm switching things up here, because language/plotwise this was actually quite good. I was invested until Anne (for some unknown reason) cheats on her husband. And until Charles tried to sacrifice his sister (again for no real reason, his debts were already paid off). Anne starving herself to death also had no real purpose behind it - you've just gotten a free mansion, love, why bother about your horrible ex?

Meh.

Indigo Wayworth says

One of the plays from this class that I'd not read yet, and I really enjoyed it!!

Read for ENGL 4606: Marriage and Adultery in Early Modern England

M. Pierce says

Better than Shakespeare at points. "O God, that it were possible / To undo things done, to call back yesterday..."

Bettie? says

Bettie's Books
