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Sommario/riassunto	We traditionally assume that the `meaning' of each of Shakespeares plays is bequeathed to it by the Bard. It is as if, to the information which used to be given in theatrical programmes, `Cigarettes by Abdullah, Costumes by Motley, Music by Mendelssohn', we should add

`Meaning by Shakespeare'. These essays rest on a different, almost opposite, principle. Developing the arguments of the same author's *That Shakespearean Rag* (1986), they put the case that Shakespeare's plays have no essential meanings, but function as resources which we use to generate meaning. *A Midsummer Night*
