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Autore	Armstrong Jane
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Illustrations; Foreword; I: 'Speak of Me as I Am': The Life; Will who?; What did Shakespeare look like?; What was he like?; Was Shakespeare a Catholic?; Was Shakespeare a lawyer?; Was Shakespeare bisexual?; Did writing come easily to Shakespeare?; Did Shakespeare contribute to the King James Bible?; Shakespeare on stage; Parents and siblings; Shakespeare's children; The King's Free Grammar School; The 'lost years'; What was he up to?; Shakespeare on the road; Shakespeare the deerstealer; What his contemporaries thought of him; Retirement; Shakespeare's will What did he die of?Saints; Shakespearean names for your baby girl; Shakespearean names for your baby boy; II: 'Within This Wooden O': Theatres and Players; The London theatres; The borough of Southwark; Audiences; Plague; 'A local habitation': Open-air theatres; Playing indoors: Blackfriars; Censorship; The acting companies; Sharers and housekeepers; Actors; The male lead; The comic lead; Minor roles; Boy actors; Did actors have scripts?; Shakespearean heroines; Shakespeare's ghosts; Vows; Top ten heroines; Top ten heroes; III: 'Devise, Wit Write, Pen': Controversies: Authorship, Sonnets and TextsThe authorship controversy; The Sonnets and the 'onlie begetter'; Who's who in the Sonnets; 'To be, or not to be - ay, there's the point': The texts of Shakespeare's plays; Shakespeare's handwriting; Flowers; Birds and animals; IV: 'The Brightest Heaven of Invention': Shakespeare the Writer; Playwriting as a career: Shakespeare's contemporaries; The

'great reckoning': Marlowe and Shakespeare; Which of his plots did Shakespeare invent himself?; Shakespeare's reading; Not all by Shakespeare? Collaboration and revision
Not by Shakespeare at all? A play by any other name; Food; Two frocks; Ten worst villains; V: 'The Two-hours' Traffic of Our Stage': Facts and Figures; Longest and shortest plays; Longest and shortest roles; Famous partnerships; Verse . . . and prose; Most and fewest characters; Nasty deaths; Undesirable characters: Shakespearean names to avoid; VI: 'A Man of Fire-new Words': Shakespeare and Language; Soliloquy; Blank verse; Divided lines; How large was Shakespeare's vocabulary?; Short and long words; New words; Playing with prefixes; An Englishman, an Irishman, a Scotsman and a Welshman
Sports and games Ten compliments; Ten insults; VII: 'Our Thoughts Are Ours, Their Ends None of Our Own': Afterlife; Rewriting Shakespeare: The Bowdlers and the Lambs; The Pre-Raphaelites' list of Immortals: Painting Shakespeare; Shakespeare in music; Shakespeare in film; What the dickens: everyday phrases; Eminent Shakespeareans: Actors; Actresses; A Chronology of Shakespeare's Plays; A Biographical Chronology; Works Consulted and Recommended Reading; Index of Play Synopses

Sommario/riassunto

A gem of a reference book covering everything you could possibly want to know about Shakespeare between two handsome covers. Entries are quite short and range from "What did Shakespeare look like?", "Shakespeare on Film" and lists of compliments, oaths, lovers' vows and boys and girls names. There is an entry for each play too, summarising its plot and outlining major characters and themes. Details are given of the debates surrounding Shakespeare's identity, the known and fanciful facts of his life, and descriptions of the theatres in which he worked and the acting companies of which he
