



Venus and Adonis: Critical Essays

By Philip C. Kolin

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This is the first collection of critical essays devoted exclusively to Shakespeare's first published work, his long narrative poem Venus and Adonis which established his reputation as the literary darling of London and the heir of Ovid. Particularly important is the book's coverage of the little-known presence of Venus and Adonis on stage. A substantial introduction of 65 pages surveys the history of criticism about the poem and its significance, and addresses such issues as the burdens of readership and the poem as a staged production. Following are 19 reprinted works from the 18th to late 20th centuries and seven original essays by leading scholars that examine the poem from a variety of theoretical and critical perspectives-Lacanian desire, semiotics and Elizabethan wardship, female readership, mythology, aesthetics and art history. An extensive chronological bibliography of scholarship, editions, and theatrical and literary reviews makes this volume indispensable.

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Venus and Adonis: Critical Essays By Philip C. Kolin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #8893316 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-01
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .90" w x 5.98" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 446 pages

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"Unlike so much contemporary literary criticism, which is turgid and obfuscatory, these essays are amazingly clear, easy, and pleasurable to read."

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..."enlightening and useful, providing a solid grounding in the poem's critical heritage while offering numerous avenues for further exploration. [T]his collection is a welcome addition to the expanding canon of Shakespearean criticism."

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About the Author

Philip C. Kolin is the University Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at the University of Southern Mississippi, where for 40 years he has taught courses in composition, business and technical writing, literature, and research methods. He has extensive experience as an editor of several scholarly journals and is the co-founder of *STUDIES IN AMERICAN DRAMA* (1945-present). He received the Conference of Learned Journals award for the best new journal. In addition, he was also named Southern Mississippi's first Distinguished Professor in the Humanities. Dr. Kolin has published almost 40 books and 200 scholarly articles covering a variety of subjects, including writing, drama, linguistics, and popular culture. He also has written an award-winning book on professional writing for nurses and articles on writing for lawyers and other professionals. Over the years, he has conducted workshops on technical business writing, the publication process, and managing professional communications. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

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