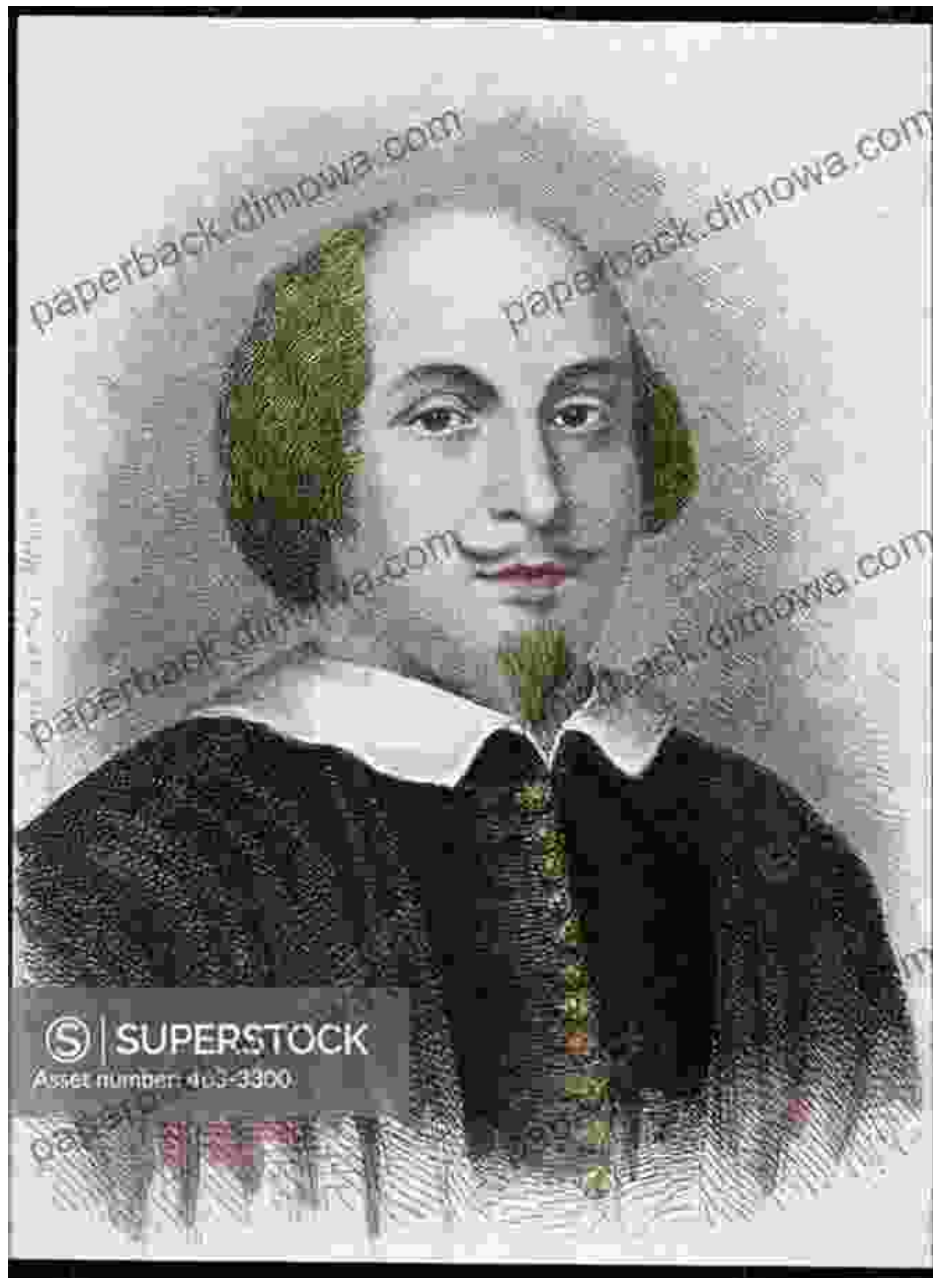


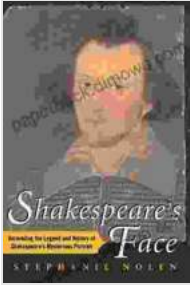
Unraveling the Legend and History of Shakespeare's Mysterious Portrait



Shakespeare's Face: Unraveling the Legend and History of Shakespeare's Mysterious Portrait

by Stephanie Nolen

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 5949 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 384 pages



William Shakespeare, the renowned playwright and poet, is one of the most celebrated figures in English literature. However, despite his literary fame, there is surprisingly little concrete evidence about his life and appearance. One of the most intriguing and enigmatic pieces of evidence is the Chandos portrait, an oil painting that is widely believed to be an authentic likeness of the Bard.

The Chandos portrait is a half-length portrait that depicts Shakespeare with a gentle expression and piercing eyes. He is wearing a black doublet and a white lace collar, and his hair is long and flowing. The portrait has been in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London since 1856, and it is one of the most popular and recognizable images of Shakespeare.

The Chandos portrait is believed to have been painted around 1610, shortly before Shakespeare's death. The artist is unknown, but there are a number of theories about who it might have been. One theory is that the portrait was painted by John Taylor, a miniaturist who was known to have painted Shakespeare. Another theory is that the portrait was painted by Nicholas Hilliard, one of the most famous portrait painters of the Elizabethan era.

The Chandos portrait has been the subject of much debate and controversy over the years. Some scholars have argued that the portrait is not an authentic likeness of Shakespeare, but rather a later forgery. Others have argued that the portrait is a genuine depiction of the Bard, but that it has been altered or overpainted over time.

Despite the controversy, the Chandos portrait remains one of the most iconic and recognizable images of Shakespeare. It is a fascinating piece of evidence that provides us with a glimpse into the life and appearance of one of the greatest writers in history.

The Legend of the Chandos Portrait

The Chandos portrait has been the subject of many legends and stories over the years. One legend claims that the portrait was painted by Shakespeare's wife, Anne Hathaway. Another legend claims that the portrait was painted by Shakespeare himself. Still another legend claims that the portrait was painted by a ghost.

There is no evidence to support any of these legends, but they add to the mystique of the Chandos portrait. The portrait has become a symbol of Shakespeare's legend and enduring legacy.

The History of the Chandos Portrait

The Chandos portrait has a long and fascinating history. The portrait was first owned by Sir John Chandos, a wealthy landowner and patron of the arts. Chandos hung the portrait in his home in Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace.

After Chandos's death, the portrait was inherited by his daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth married Sir Thomas Lucy, a wealthy landowner and magistrate. The portrait remained in the Lucy family for many years.

In 1740, the portrait was sold to the Duke of Chandos. The Duke hung the portrait in his home at Canons Park, Middlesex. The portrait remained in the Chandos family for many years.

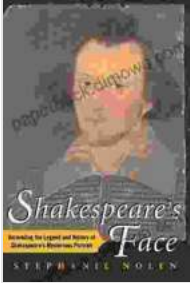
In 1856, the portrait was sold to the National Portrait Gallery in London. The portrait has been on display at the National Portrait Gallery ever since.

The Significance of the Chandos Portrait

The Chandos portrait is a significant piece of evidence about Shakespeare's life and appearance. It is the only known portrait of Shakespeare that was painted during his lifetime. The portrait provides us with a glimpse into the Bard's appearance and personality.

The Chandos portrait is also a symbol of Shakespeare's legend and enduring legacy. The portrait has been used in countless books, articles, and films about Shakespeare. It is a reminder of Shakespeare's genius and his enduring impact on English literature.

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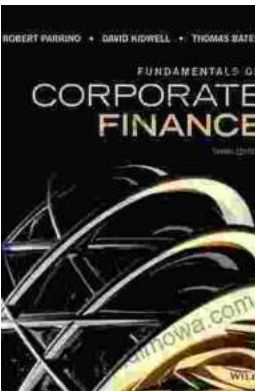


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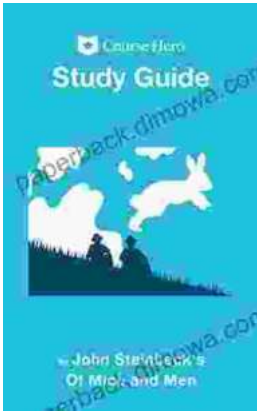
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