

What News on the Rialto?

The Lost Years of William Shakespeare

About the Book

It is the spring of 1585, and William Shakespeare is bored. Filled with incoherent dreams, a wife and three children anchor him to the tedious realities of life in Stratford-on-Avon. Then one drunken night changes all that and he finds himself in London, exiled from his family and depending on the goodwill of a friend of his father's. A chance encounter and a new friendship launch him at last on his career, but trouble pursues him and his only opportunity to free himself lies in undertaking yet another journey – this time to Italy.

Scholars have often mused about the possibility that the great bard might have travelled, with Italy as the prime suspect. After all, almost a third of his plays are set in that country, and many of them paint a tantalisingly accurate picture of Italian life and customs. But how and why would he have gone there? And what adventures might he have had that later found their way into his plays? Lovers of Shakespeare and aficionados of 16th century historical fiction alike will be fascinated by this tale of intrigue, passion, life and death.

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Quotes

'Weaving fiction with historical fact, Wildman's captivating novel includes well-researched events that hint at the origins of the plays we all know and love.' – Historical Novel Society

Praise from readers:

'Whether you like Shakespeare, Italy, historical fiction, a cracking good story, or just enjoy a great read, this is a book I can't recommend highly enough'

'One doesn't need to know Shakespeare's works to enjoy this book. Nicely paced, with fluid writing and memorable characters—some real, some fictional—that I'd love to meet again.'

'A very engaging account of Shakespeare's lost years'

About the Author

Born in Hertfordshire, England, Anthony R Wildman migrated to Australia with his family in 1967. He grew up and was educated in South Australia, where he acquired a degree in History and Politics from the University of Adelaide, providing the fuel for a lifelong fascination with both subjects.

After a career in business that saw him working in the oil industry, banking and finance, business services and management consulting, Anthony has embarked on a new phase of his life as a writer and novelist.

Though his long-term home is in Melbourne, Australia, where he lives with his partner Robert, he has journeyed extensively throughout Europe, Asia and America, satisfying his love of travel and new experiences.

Free copies available for reviews. Please contact the author twildman17@gmail.com

