

**THE TWO
GENTLEMEN
OF VERONA**

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The Two Gentlemen of Verona by William Shakespeare

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**THE TWO
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The
Two Gentlemen of Verona

By
William Shakespeare

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY

K. Deighton

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INTRODUCTION.

Date of the Play. Though the earliest mention we have of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is that in Mere's list of 1598, it was evidently written much earlier, probably about 1591. The exact date, however, is of little importance, since construction, thought, language, and character of metre alike point to its being one of Shakespeare's earliest efforts.

Sources of the Plot. For some of the incidents of the play Shakespeare was probably indebted, as the commentators have pointed out, to the story of the shepherdess Felismena in the *Diana* of Montemayor, a Spanish romance translated into English about the close of the sixteenth century, or to a play entitled 'The History of Felix and Philomena' which was played at Greenwich in 1584. Other incidents are traced to Bandello's novel of *Apollonnis und Lylla*, while Valentine's encomium on solitude and his consenting to become head of the bandits are supposed to be taken from Sidney's *Arcadia*.

The Story. This opens at Verona, the native city of the Two Gentlemen, Valentine and Proteus, who have long been fast friends. The former is about to start on his travels to see something of the world; the latter, though probably of a like mind, is tied to Verona by his