

**SHAKESPEARE
EXPLAINED; A
READER'S GUIDE**

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Shakespeare Explained; A Reader's Guide by Forrest Sumner Lunt

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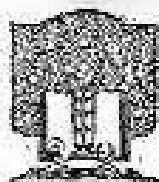
SHAKESPEARE EXPLAINED

A Reader's Guide

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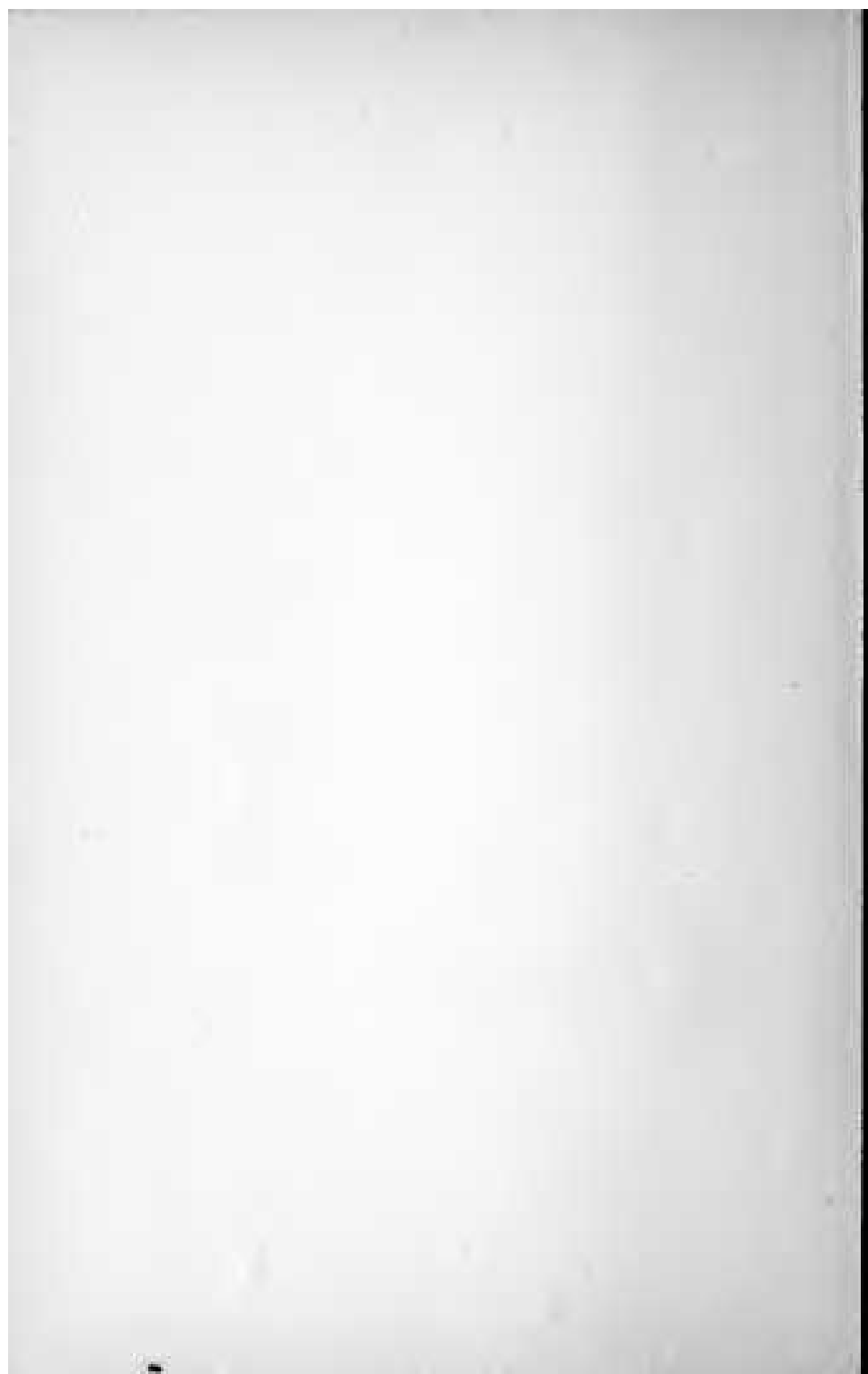
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This Guide was prepared for the purpose of assisting the general reader to a better understanding of the plays of William Shakespeare.

The opportunity to visit libraries, consult reference books and glossaries is not given to all who would like to know the plays of the great English dramatist. The Guide is intended to suggest to such readers the type of questions which any thoughtful reader should ask and which he can answer, even though he may not have an intimate knowledge of notes, historical references, or of play making.

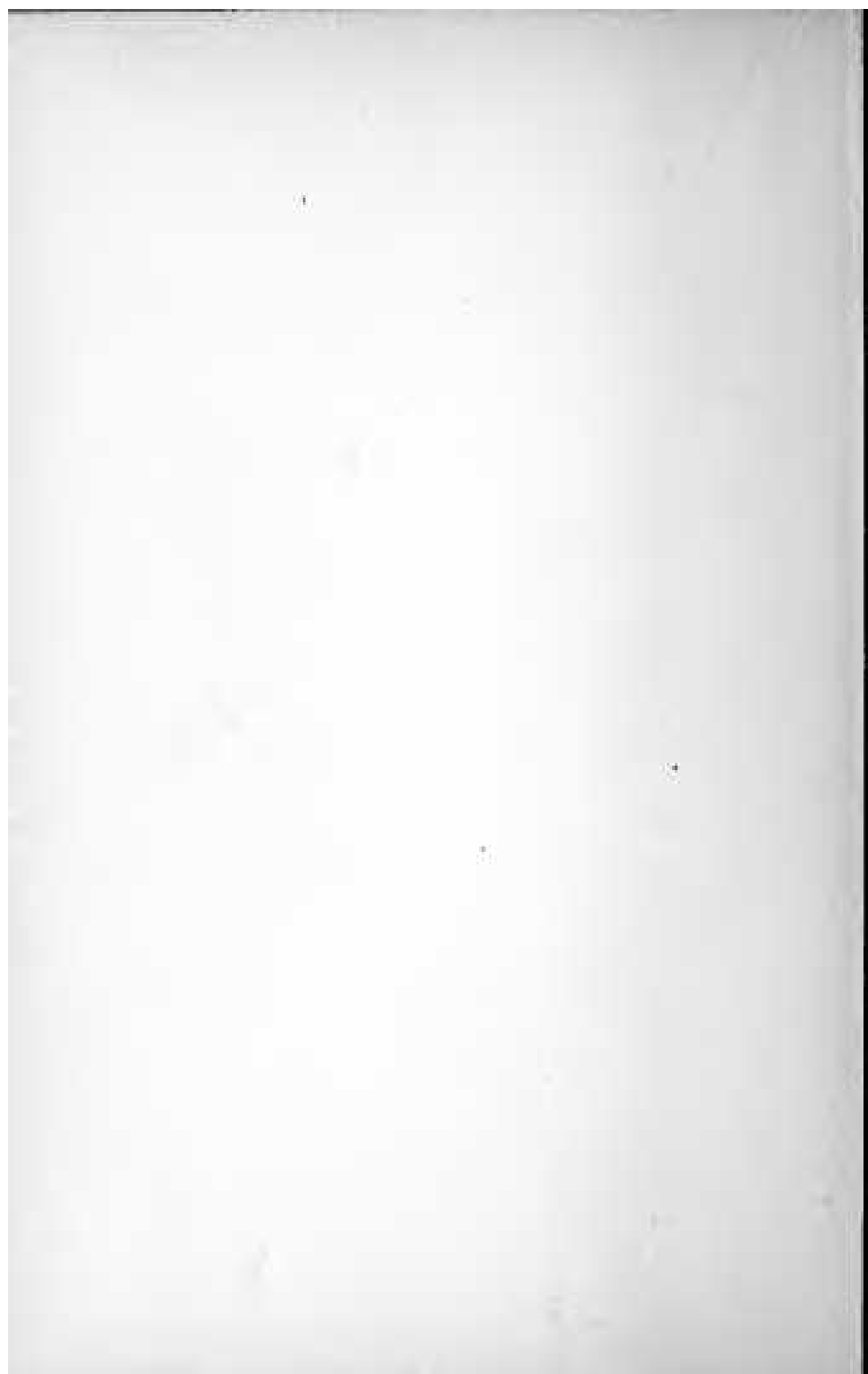
Mr. Arthur Brisbane's Introduction to the International Edition of Shakespeare will materially aid one who is reading for pleasure in appreciating the plays and poems.

F. S. L.



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SHAKESPEARE EXPLAINED

THE TEMPEST

ACT I—SCENE I

1. *Where is the scene of this drama placed?*

Scene i is on board a ship at sea; the rest of the action is on Prospero's Island.

2. *Can you give a reason why Shakespeare begins this play with a storm?*

Because he wished to draw the enemies of Prospero to his island in an apparently natural manner. This storm was caused by Prospero. Scene ii, lines 194 to 208. Some commentators suggest that the storm was intended to recall the foul play by which Prospero was robbed of his dukedom. In the author's day the elements were supposed to be in very close sympathy with human joys and sorrows.

SCENE II

3. *What do you learn about Ferdinand?*

Ferdinand is a son of the storm-wrecked

king; of "brave form"; is drawn to Prospero and Miranda by Ariel's music; "he is gentle and not fearful" (line 467); and falls in love with Miranda immediately.

4. *What expression of the Realistic, the Romantic, and the Supernatural does Shakespeare give in this act?*

The conversation of the sailors, and the love between father and child are examples of Realism. Ariel's account of his part in the storm, and the bewitching of Ferdinand are examples of the Supernatural. The love of Ferdinand and Miranda for each other is an expression of Romance.

ACT II—SCENE I

5. *What description of the island does Gonzalo give?*

"Here is everything advantageous to life." "How lush and lusty the grass looks! how green!"

6. *What does Ariel do for Gonzalo?*

He prevents Gonzalo from being killed while asleep by Antonio and Sebastian, by singing in his ear and waking him. Lines 305-310, Scene i.