

**THE WORKS OF  
SHAKESPEARE:  
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA**

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The Works of Shakespeare: Troilus and Cressida by William Shakespeare & K. Deighton

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**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & K. DEIGHTON**

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THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE  
GENERAL EDITOR: W. J. CRAIG

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA



THE WORKS  
OF  
SHAKESPEARE

-V.34-  
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

EDITED BY

K. DEIGHTON



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## INTRODUCTION

UNLESS Shakespeare owed suggestions to a play called *Troilus and Cressida* upon which Dekker and Chettle were engaged in 1599, but which has not come down to us, the plot of our drama may be taken as derived in the main from Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*, Caxton's *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*, and Lydgate's *Historye, Sege, and dystruccon of Troye*. To these may be added Chapman's translation of the *Iliad* (of which books i. ii. and vii.-xi. were published in 1598) as furnishing hints of character; especially in the case of Thersites, whose portrait, physical and moral, is only more elaborately worked out by the dramatist. Of Shakespeare's obligations to Caxton and Lydgate there can be no doubt. On the question whether in the *Cressida* myth he was primarily and chiefly indebted to Chaucer, something will be said further on.

*Troilus and Cressida* was first published in 1609. It then appeared as a quarto, of which there were two impressions differing only in the title-page and in the fact that one of them is prefaced by an address to the reader. This address opens with the words "Eternal reader, you have heere a new play neuer stal'd with the stage, neuer clapper-clawd with the palmes of the vulgar, and yet passing full