



## The Tempest

*William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)*

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	1 hour 56 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1128
Language:	English	UPC:	0683422134494
Style:	Dramatic	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Plays, Romance		

Neither tragedy nor comedy, but a romance, *The Tempest* (1610-11) is believed to be the last play written in entirety by William Shakespeare. Prospero and his daughter Miranda have lived on a remote island for twelve years with native spirit Ariel as servant and the monstrous Caliban as slave. Prospero's brother, Antonio, conspired with Alonso, King of Naples, to depose him as Duke of Milan. Prospero, a sorcerer, divines that they are passing by and conjures a tempest to maroon them on the island. Prospero separates the survivors into several groups, and several plots unfold. Caliban plots with two drunkards to undo Prospero and fails. Prospero tests Alonso's son Ferdinand, who passes and is rewarded with the hand of Miranda. Alonso's brother Sebastian conspires with Antonio to kill Alonso and gain the kingdom of Naples, and is foiled by Ariel, working under Prospero's guidance. With his powers in full sway, Prospero ends by forgiving the conspirators, freeing Ariel, pardoning Caliban, breaking his magic staff and drowning his magic book.

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*The Tempest* was overlooked until the Restoration, when adaptations began appearing. Productions began to perform the entire text in the 19th century and the play is now considered one of Shakespeare's finest works. It has inspired no less than 46 operas. The character of Prospero and the power of his sorcery is seen by scholars as symbols of Shakespeare the playwright and the power of theatre to shape reality. The closing moment when Prospero asks the audience to set him free from the island with their applause is interpreted as Shakespeare's farewell.

**William Shakespeare** (April 26, 1564 – April 23, 1616) was an English playwright and poet widely considered as the world's greatest dramatist and the greatest writer in the English language. He produced 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two narrative poems and other verse, most between the years 1589 and 1613. His earlier works consist mostly of comedies and histories, considered as some of the best work ever done in these genres. He turned to tragedies from about 1600 until about 1608, producing *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth* in this phase, considered the finest works in English. His last phase brought us the tragicomedies and romances such as *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*. All but two of his plays were collected in the First Folio in 1623.

Little is known of his personal life apart from his marriage to Anne Hathaway at age 18, his three children, and his work as an actor and part owner of the King's Men theatre company in addition to his writing. The paucity of information has led to speculation about his appearance, beliefs, sexuality, and even the authenticity of his works. He retired to Stratford in 1613 and died three years later.