



At the Bottom of Shakespeare s Ocean (Hardback)

By Steve Mentz

Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, United Kingdom, 2009. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 200 x 130 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This is a fascinating study revealing Shakespeare s career-long engagement with the sea and his frequent use of maritime imagery. We need a poetic history of the ocean, and Shakespeare can help us find one. There s more real salt in the plays than we first expect. Shakespeare s dramatic ocean spans the God-sea of the ancient world and the immense blue vistas that early modern mariners navigated. Throughout his career, from the opening shipwrecks of *The Comedy of Errors* through *The Tempest* , Shakespeare s plays figure the ocean as shocking physical reality and mind-twisting symbol of change and instability. To fathom Shakespeare s ocean - to go down to its bottom - this book s chapters focus on different things that humans do with and in and near the sea: fathoming, keeping watch, swimming, beachcombing, fishing, and drowning. Mentz also sets Shakespeare s sea-poetry against modern literary seascapes, including the vast Pacific of *Moby-Dick* , the rocky coast of Charles Olson s *Maximus Poems* , and the lyrical waters of the postcolonial Caribbean



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