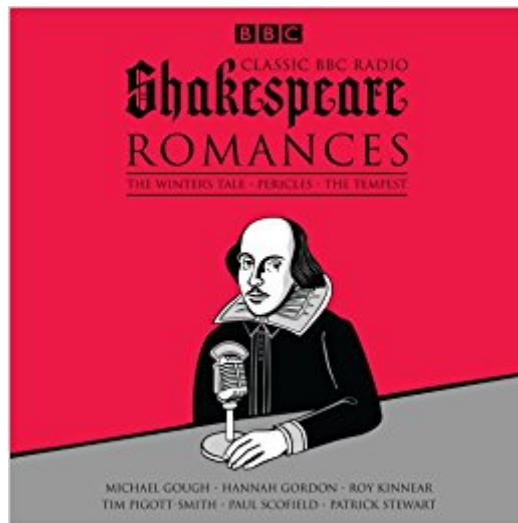




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# Classic BBC Radio Shakespeare: Romances: The Winter's Tale; Pericles; The Tempest



## Synopsis

These three plays, performed by some of the best-known theatrical actors of the 20th Century, are the perfect way to commemorate England's greatest dramatist. In *The Winter's Tale*, one man's consuming jealousy threatens to destroy both himself and those around him, but his actions arouse a sense of honor, love, justice, and self-sacrifice in members of his Court and family. In *Pericles*, Pericles is haunted by Fate, buffeted by storms, driven from country to country, and separated from his wife and daughter. Having endured his wayward Fortune, will he be reunited with his family? Finally, *The Tempest*, set on an enchanted island ruled by the sorcerer Prospero, is a spellbinding tale of magic, illusion, forgiveness, and repentance, and is one of the bard's greatest plays. Unabridged.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: BBC Books; A&M edition (December 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1785293591

ISBN-13: 978-1785293597

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,479,486 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( S \) > Shakespeare, William](#) #177 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Drama](#) #1058 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Literature](#)

## Customer Reviews

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, and was baptised on 26 April 1564. His father was a glove maker and wool merchant and his mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a well-to-do local land owner. Shakespeare was probably educated in Stratford's grammar school. In 1582 he married Anne Hathaway, and the couple had a daughter the following year and twins in 1585. Shakespeare's theatrical life seems to have commenced around 1590. We do know that he was part of the Lord Chamberlain's Company, which was renamed the King's Company in 1603 when James I succeeded to the throne. The Company acquired interests in two theatres in the Southwark area of London, near the banks of the Thames - the Globe and the Blackfriars. Shakespeare's poetry was published before his plays, with two poems appearing in

1593 and 1594, dedicated to his patron Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. Most of Shakespeare's sonnets were probably written at this time as well. Records of Shakespeare's plays begin to appear in 1594, and he produced roughly two a year until around 1611. His earliest plays include Henry VI and Titus Andronicus. A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice and Richard II all date from the mid to late 1590s. Some of his most famous tragedies were written in the early 1600s; these include Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth and Antony & Cleopatra. His late plays, often known as the Romances, date from 1608 onwards and include The Tempest. Shakespeare died on 23 April 1616 and was buried in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford. The first collected edition of his works was published in 1623 and is known as 'the First Folio'.

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