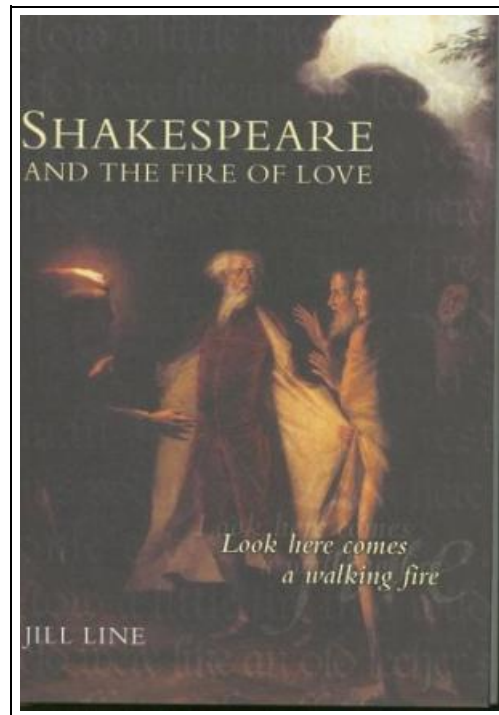# Shakespeare and the Fire of Love (Hardback)

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Reviews

An extremely wonderful book with perfect and lucid explanations. This really is for those who statte that there had not been a worth reading. Your way of life span will be convert when you comprehensive reading this book.

(Effie Douglas)

SHAKESPEARE AND THE FIRE OF LOVE (HARDBACK)

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Shepheard-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd, United Kingdom, 2005. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 211 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. From women s eyes this doctrine I derive: They are the ground, the books, the academes, From whence doth spring the true Promethean fire These lines, spoken by Berowne in Love s Labour s Lost, embody all the passions of the early stages of love but, as so often with Shakespeare, he seems to be hinting at something more. What is the doctrine he derives from women s eyes? What is it women s eyes convey? What is the true Promethean fire? The answers to these questions lie in the Christian-Platonic philosophy of love which permeates all Shakespeare s plays and poems. Although Christian-Platonism, or the new learning as it was known in his time, has long been associated with the poetry of many of his contemporaries, its relationship to Shakespeare s work is not so well known. This perennial philosophy has come down through a long line of teachers, including Hermes Trismegistus, Pythagoras, Plato and Plotinus. The philosopher of this tradition, whom Shakespeare most clearly reflects, was the scholar-priest Marsilio Ficino, who lived in Florence a hundred years before him. It was he who drew together the strands of many teachings and, having found the same truths in Christianity, formulated a philosophy that is generally referred to today as Christian-Platonism. Most of the comedies and some of the sonnets are explained in the light of this philosophy as they show most clearly the concepts of Platonic love. The tragedies, some of the Roman plays and Shakespeare s last plays are used to show how he expanded on these ideas throughout his life, but only passing reference is made to the histories. Most Shakespearean criticism of recent years has been...

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