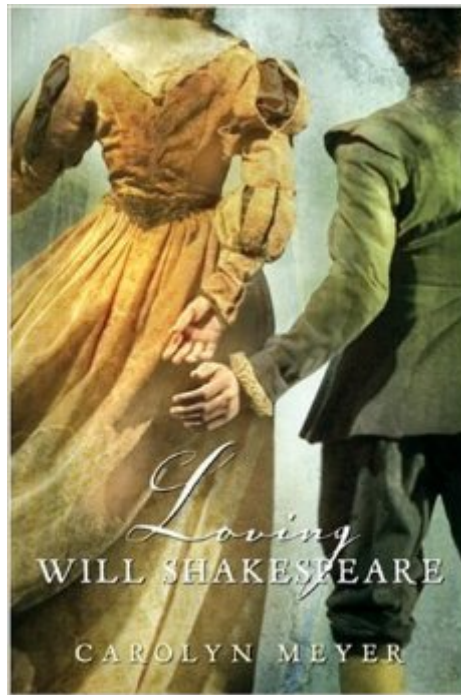


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# Loving Will Shakespeare



## Synopsis

Poor Anne Hathaway is still living with her callous stepmother, and her prospects for marriage and a home of her own are becoming grim. However, she can't seem to get charismatic Will Shakespeare out of her mind--even though he is much too young for her. But then one day Will impulsively kisses his childhood friend Anne, changing the course of their lives forever. Here is the story of the childhoods of and tumultuous romance between the boy who became the world's most famous playwright and the spirited farmer's daughter who became his wife. Carolyn Meyer has delivered a riveting historical tale about love, family, the pursuit of one's dreams--and the price one pays for each.

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (10 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Agnes "Anne" Hathaway has never had an easy life. She had a loving mother, and a wonderful family up until the day the sickness came, stealing the life of her beloved mother, and leaving her father a widower. Agnes feels that the family would have been able to survive, with just her, and her siblings; but father thinks differently, and takes an evil wife (Joan) to be Agnes' new stepmother. Joan treats Agnes as if she were lower than rat poison, and, eventually, when Agnes' father passes on, Joan begins to threaten the poor Agnes. Forcing her to become romantically involved with a man whose temper rages at anytime. The only consolation Agnes has in her life, is the affections of young Will Shakespeare. While Agnes is Will's senior by eight years, she finds herself drawn to the

boy whom she saw in diapers, and soon finds herself sharing passionate embraces with the young poet. Will makes Agnes (whom he refers to as Anne) feel loved, and cared for. Something that she has not experienced since the death of both of her parents. Together, the two lovers begin sharing secrets, and planning a future. And, soon, when Will returns from his time abroad, Anne realizes that he is the one for her. The only problem is that Will craves a life of travel, and playacting; while Anne wants nothing more than a stable marriage, and a family to spend time with. Now, as the two grow closer and closer, Anne must make her choice...follow her heart, or take into consideration the unbelieving stares and whispers of those who feel that she's making a fool of herself. I have read very few plays by Shakespeare. But those which I have devoured, were adored. Which is the main reason Carolyn Meyer's *LOVING WILL SHAKESPEARE* appealed to me so greatly.

*Loving Will Shakespeare* by Carolyn Meyer We know him for his famous plays, sonnets, and invention of many of the common words in our language. Additionally, he created cultural icons that we still refer to today in common situations: Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, King Lear. In case you're about 600 years behind, I'm talking about William Shakespeare. Yes, the William Shakespeare. We know him for his work and influence on English literature, and historians speculate who he really was in private and what he did, but, Carolyn Meyer takes this in-depth speculation to a new level when she writes a fictional novel from the view point of Shakespeare's wife, Anne. Some of you may remember Anne as the wife Shakespeare left his second best bed to, but Meyer makes Anne just a little more memorable than history has allowed. Although most of the events portrayed are correctly arranged as to when they happened and the outcome, the conversations are predominantly fictional. Born around 1555 and 1556, Anne Hathaway was Shakespeare's elder by eight or nine years. She bore his children, managed his home, and waited for his return, but all in girlish vain as Shakespeare began a very public and prominent life in London. Historically speaking, not much is known about Anne Hathaway, but there is speculation that the Shakespeare-Hathaway marriage was result of a pregnancy and that the wedding that was forced on Shakespeare by the Hathaway family ended in a desperate loathing between Hathaway and Shakespeare. Meyer, however, portrays a much more pleasant version of the story, and aims to fill in the gaps with fiction. In Meyer's version, Hathaway is a simple, English country girl who is living in a cramped cottage with her siblings and father after her mother's death.

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