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King Of Shadows



Synopsis

Only in the world of the theater can Nat Field find an escape from the tragedies that have shadowed his young life. So he is thrilled when he is chosen to join an American drama troupe traveling to London to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a new replica of the famous Globe theater. Shortly after arriving in England, Nat goes to bed ill and awakens transported back in time four hundred years -- to another London, and another production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Amid the bustle and excitement of an Elizabethan theatrical production, Nat finds the warm, nurturing father figure missing from his life -- in none other than William Shakespeare himself. Does Nat have to remain trapped in the past forever, or give up the friendship he's so longed for in his own time?

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

"This is thy negligence. Still thou mistak'st, Or else commit'st thy knaveries wilfully." "Believe me, king of shadows, I mistook."- Oberon and Puck, *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, Act III scene 3 "...nought shall go ill. The man shall have his mare again, and all shall be well." "And these last three lines I said out to the audience, or rather to the empty theatre where the audience would be, and they jarred me suddenly out of my happy time, my acting time. 'All shall be well.' I knew as I said it that it was a lie, Shakespeare's lie, because I knew from my own life that all does not go well, but

that terrible things happen to people and cannot be put right, by magic flower-juice or by anything else in this world."- Nat Field, who plays Puck for the Company of Boys - and the Lord Chamberlain's Men Nat, who narrates his own story as he remembers it, brings us into his life on the first day of serious rehearsal of the Company of Boys - twenty of the best young stage actors in the United States, brought together to perform two of Shakespeare's plays as they were intended to be performed, using boys whose voices hadn't yet broken for the women's roles. After a few weeks of rehearsal (first in Cambridge, Massachusetts, then in London), they are to perform JULIUS CAESAR and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM in the Globe, newly built in 1999 yet celebrating its 400th anniversary as a replica of the original theatre where the Lord Chamberlain's Men - Shakespeare's company - spent their most famous years.

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