

## A Lover s Complaint: A Poem (Paperback)

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## Reviews

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## A LOVER S COMPLAINT: A POEM (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.A Lover s Complaint is a narrative poem published as an appendix to the original edition of Shakespeare s sonnets. It is given the title A Lover s Complaint in the book, which was published by Thomas Thorpe in 1609. Although published as Shakespeare s work, the poem s authorship has become a matter of critical debate. The majority opinion is that it is by Shakespeare. The poem consists of forty-seven seven-line stanzas written in the rhyme royal (with the rhyme scheme ababbcc), a metre and structure identical to that of Shakespeare s poem The Rape of Lucrece. In the poem, the speaker sees a young woman weeping at the edge of a river, into which she throws torn-up letters, rings, and other tokens of love. An old man asks the reason for her sorrow, and she responds by telling him of a former lover who pursued, seduced, and finally abandoned her. She concludes her story by conceding that she would fall for the young man s false charms again. Despite its appearance in the published collection of the sonnets, critics have often doubted attribution to Shakespeare. A Lover s Complaint contains many words and forms not found elsewhere in Shakespeare, including several archaisms and Latinisms, and is sometimes regarded as rhythmically and structurally awkward. Conversely, other critics have a high regard for the poem s quality - Edmond Malone called it beautiful, and suggested that Shakespeare may have been trying to compete with Edmund Spenser. Critics have seen thematic parallels to situations in Shakespeare s All s Well That Ends Well and Measure for Measure. According to John Kerrigan in Motives of Woe, the...

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