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# LOVE AND MARRIAGE

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF SHAKESPEARE'S MARRIAGE

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## Arranged marriages

Marrying for love is a relatively new concept. For many centuries, matchmaking and arranging marriages for their children was the parents' privilege. In many societies worldwide, arranged marriages are still common. There are different types of arranged marriages: **forced marriages**, where bride and groom have no say in the matter due to social conventions; **child marriages** (also called early marriages), where at least one of the two people is not of adult age; and **pragmatic marriages**, where the partners have agreed to the pairing a matchmaker or parent has chosen.

- Married with Anne Hathaway
- Remained married until his death<sup>1</sup>
- On the time of their marriage he was 18 and she was 26
- Shakespeare was a minor in the eyes of the law
- The marriage required the permission of Anne's father
- applying to the Bishop's Court in Worcester
  - This was necessary to avoid any scandal Anne's pregnancy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespeadia/william-shakespeare/shakespeares-wife-and-marriage/>

**Did he Loved her?**