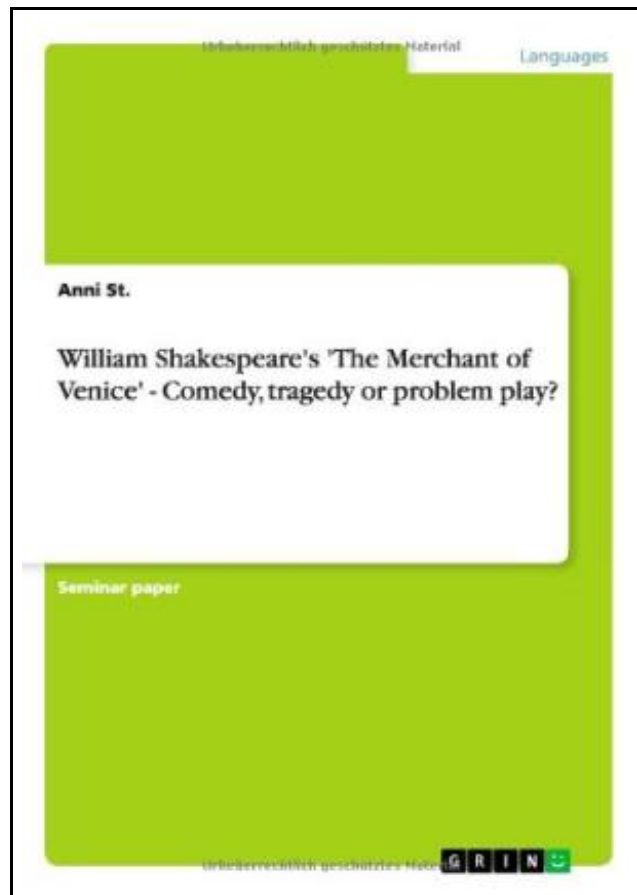


William Shakespeares The Merchant of Venice - Comedy, Tragedy or Problem Play



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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1, 3, RWTH Aachen University (Institut fr Anglistik), course: Hauptseminar Shakespeares Comedies, language: English, abstract: The first question that Shakespeares play The Merchant of Venice raises is What kind of play is this Is it a comedy, a tragedy or a problem play The Merchant of Venice is believed to be written between 1596 and 1598. Already from the very beginning, hardly any other play has experienced so many diverse receptions after its publication. In his essay on The Merchant of Venice, Walter Cohen comments that no other Shakespeare comedy before Alls Well That Ends Well (1602) and Measure for Measure (1604), perhaps no other Shakespeare comedy at all, has excited comparable controversy. Although the title page of the first edition of the play The Most Excellent Historie of the Merchant of Venice (first print in 1600) suggested it to be a history play, it had initially been classified as a comedy. In 1623, Heminges and Condell placed The Merchant of Venice among the comedies in the First Folio of Shakespeares works. However, many readers, actors, directors and playgoers still argue about the genre of the play. They have difficulties in defining The Merchant of Venice as a comedy as the following quotation shows: Indeed, seen from any angle, The Merchant of Venice is not a very funny play, and we might gain a lot if, for the moment, we ceased to be bullied by its inclusion in the comedies. Today, The Merchant of Venice is often read and played more like a problem play or even a tragedy. The following term paper deals with the classification of the literary genre of...



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