

Massacre at Paris: A Play (Paperback)

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Reviews

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MASSACRE AT PARIS: A PLAY (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.There is however much of historical interest here. The play is virtually unique in addressing contemporary European history, and indeed a sensitive political situation on England s own doorstep. The St. Bartholomew s Day massacre, instigated by the French royal rulers and Catholic nobles (including the Duke of Guise) saw the systematic murder and execution of thousands of protestant Huguenots in the French capital in August 1572. Many of the Huguenot leadership were in Paris for the wedding of their leader, Henry of Navarre, to the French King s sister Margaret. With the notable exceptions of Navarre and the Prince of Conde, virtually all the Huguenot nobles present were exterminated along with a large number of ordinary protestants living in Paris, including scholars, preachers, clergymen, and all manner of ordinary men, women and children. It was a horrific act of mass murder that shocked the world, especially neighbouring protestant countries such as England and the Netherlands. The terror was more acute due to a good number of Englishmen in Paris who witnessed the butchery first hand, including the Queen s Ambassador Sir Francis Walsingham, and Sir Philip Sidney. The massacre occupies the first half of the play, before Marlowe brings the story of the French Wars of Religion up to date through the reign of Henry III. Indeed the climax of this play, most likely written in 1592, covers some very recent history indeed: the murder of the Duke of Guise and his brother the Cardinal of Guise in December 1588, and the subsequent murder in turn of Henry III by a Dominican friar, Jacques Clement, in August 1589. This latest cycle of religious and...

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