



Witches and Jesuits: Shakespeare s Macbeth (Paperback)

By Garry Wills

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 1996. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In his Pulitzer Prize-winning 1993 book Lincoln at Gettysburg, Garry Wills showed how the Gettysburg Address revolutionized the conception of modern America. In *Witches and Jesuits*, based on his Oxford/New York Public Library lectures, Wills again focuses on a single document to open up a window on an entire society. He begins with a simple question: If Macbeth is such a great tragedy, why do performances of it so often fail? The stage history of Macbeth is so riddled with disasters that it has created a legendary curse on the drama. Superstitious actors try to evade the curse by referring to Macbeth only as the Scottish play, but production after production continues to soar in its opening scenes, only to sputter towards anticlimax in the later acts. By critical consensus there seems to have been only one entirely successful modern performance of the play, Laurence Olivier s in 1955. Drawing on his intimate knowledge of the vivid intrigue and drama of Jacobean England, Wills restores Macbeth s suspenseful tension by returning it to the context of its own time, recreating...



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