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978-1-107-01518-0 - Intimacy and Sexuality in the Age of Shakespeare

James M. Bromley

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THE AGE OF SHAKESPEARE

James M. Bromley argues that Renaissance texts circulate knowledge about a variety of non-standard sexual practices and intimate life narratives, including non-monogamy, anal eroticism, masochism, and cross-racial female homoeroticism. Rethinking current assumptions about intimacy in Renaissance drama, poetry, and prose, the book blends historicized and queer approaches to embodiment, narrative, and temporality. An important contribution to Renaissance literary studies, queer theory, and the history of sexuality, the book demonstrates the relevance of Renaissance literature to today. Through close readings of William Shakespeare's "problem comedies," Christopher Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*, plays by Beaumont and Fletcher, Thomas Middleton's *The Nice Valour*, and Lady Mary Wroth's sonnet sequence *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus* and her prose romance *The Urania*, Bromley re-evaluates notions of the centrality of deep, abiding affection in Renaissance culture and challenges our own investment in a narrowly defined intimate sphere.

JAMES M. BROMLEY is Assistant Professor of English at Miami University. He has published essays on intimacy, sexual practice, and Renaissance literature in *Early Modern Literary Studies*, *Studies in Philology*, and *Modern Philology*. He is the winner of the 2011 Martin Stevens Award for Best New Essay in Early Drama Studies from the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society.

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JAMES M. BROMLEY

*Miami University*



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## *Illustrations*

1. *The Passionate Pilgrim* (London, 1599) signature D5r–v.  
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## NOTE

Where I am not quoting from a modern edition of a text, I have retained early modern spelling and punctuation. For clarity, however, I have silently modernized *i/j*, *u/v*, and long *s*, and where macrons indicate the suspension of a letter I have re-inserted the letter.