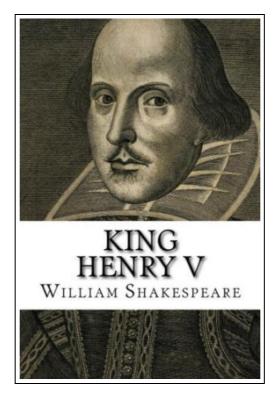
King Henry V



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand ******. Henry V is a history play by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written in approximately 1599. It tells the story of King Henry V of England, focusing on events immediately before and after the Battle of Agincourt (1415) during the Hundred Years War. In the First Quarto text, it was entitled The Cronicle History of Henry the fift: p.6, which became The Life of Henry the Fifth in the First Folio text. The play is the final part of a tetralogy, preceded by Richard II, Henry IV, Part 1 and Henry IV, Part 2. The original audiences would thus have already been familiar with the title character, who was depicted in the Henry IV plays as a wild, undisciplined lad known as Prince Harry and by Falstaff as Hal. In Henry V, the young prince has become a mature man and embarks on a successful conquest of France. Elizabethan stages did not use scenery. Acknowledging the difficulty of conveying great battles and shifts of location on a bare stage, the Chorus (a single actor) calls for a Muse of fire so that the actor playing King Henry can assume the port [bearing] of Mars. He asks, Can this cockpit [i.e. the theatre] hold / The vasty fields of France? and encourages the audience to use their imaginary forces (imaginations) to overcome the stage s limitations: Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts. The early scenes deal with the embarkation of Henry s fleet for France, and include a real-life incident in which the Earl of Cambridge and two others plotted to assassinate Henry at Southampton. (Henry s clever uncovering of the plot and his ruthless treatment of...

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