



*Shakespeare*TM

WORK, LIFE AND TIMES

OFFICIAL GUIDE



Shakespeare and Love

Shakespeare's sonnets combine intense thought with deep emotions.

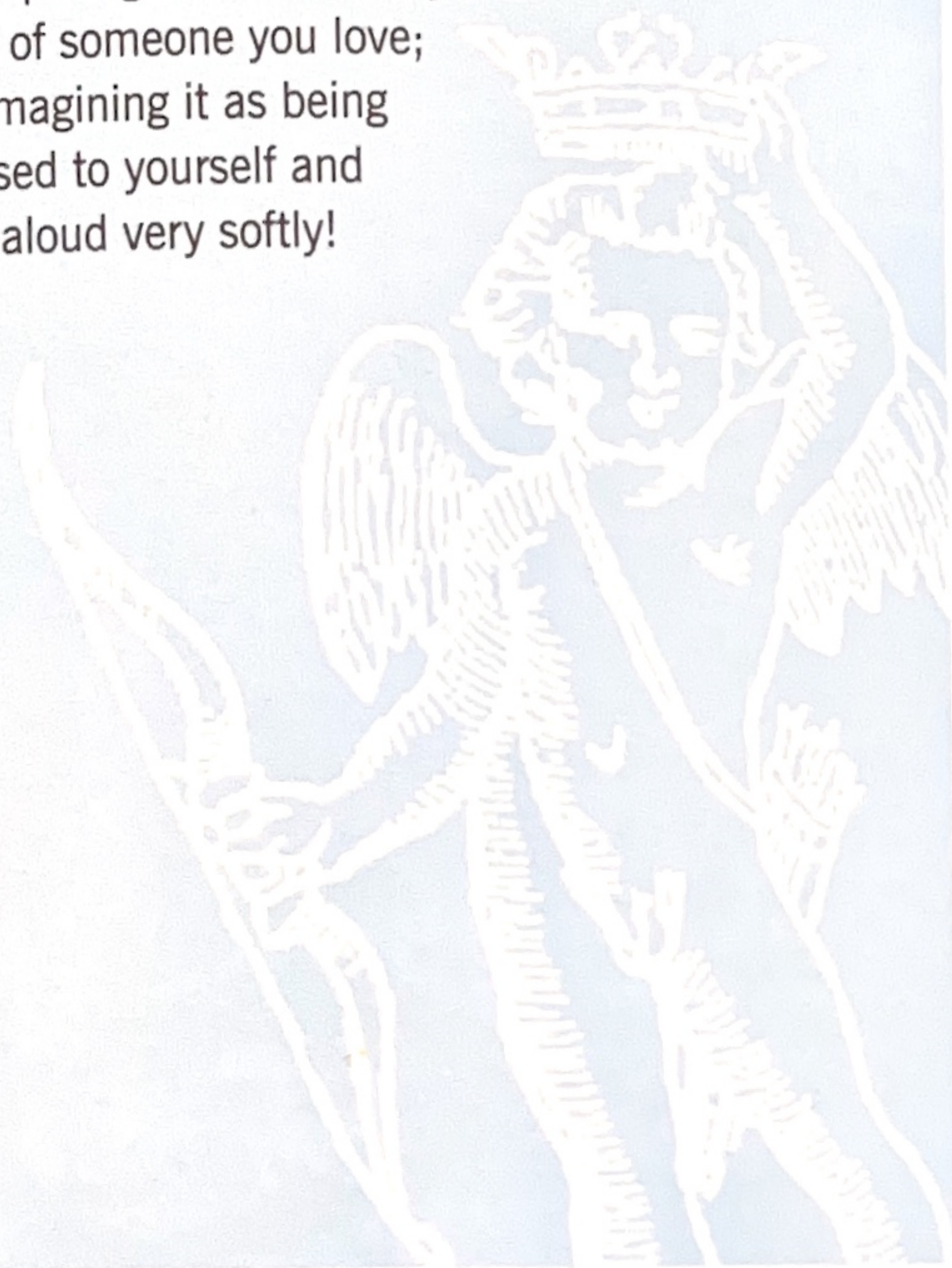
Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed,
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st.

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

(Sonnet 18)

This is perhaps the most famous sonnet of them all. The word 'sonnet' comes from the Italian 'sonnetto' meaning 'little sound'.

Try whispering this one slowly into the ear of someone you love; or try imagining it as being addressed to yourself and read it aloud very softly!



The balcony scene Track 136

Romeo and Juliet have only met once before. In this scene, Romeo hides in the Capulets' garden and observes Juliet.

JULIET

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO

[*Aside*] Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
And for thy name which is no part of thee
Take all myself.

ROMEO

I take thee at thy word:
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

Romeo and Juliet, an extract from act 2, scene 2,
William Shakespeare, 1597

Elizabethan English



Track 137

thou

you (*sujet*)

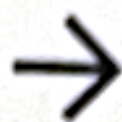
thee

you (*complément*)

thy

your

thyself



yourself

art

are

wilt

will

wherefore

why