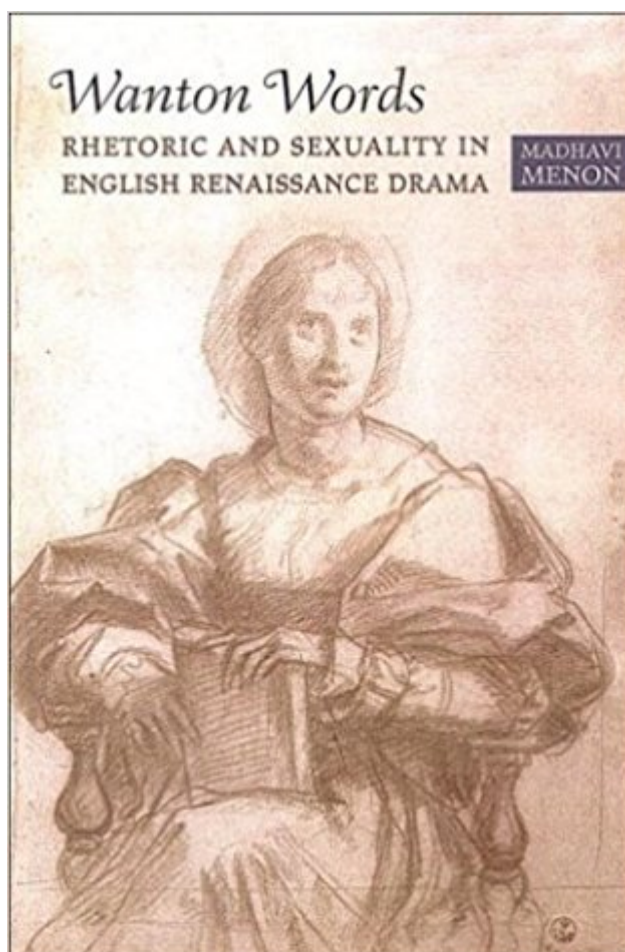




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Wanton Words: Rhetoric And Sexuality In English Renaissance Drama



Synopsis

In *Wanton Words*, Madhavi Menon intimately and expertly couples classical and Renaissance handbooks of rhetoric with canonical Renaissance plays and demonstrates their shared propensity to speak about sex - often transgressive sex - in the same instance that they speak about the workings of language. While other studies of rhetoric have confined their analyses to local questions of interpretive interest, Menon introduces rhetoric into the largely medico-juridical realm of studies on Renaissance sexuality. In doing so, she suggests that rhetoric allows us to think through the erotics of language in ways that pay most attention to the frisson of English Renaissance drama. Sustained deconstructive parsings of tropes - metaphor, metonymy, allegory, catechresis, and more - enables their wantonness to emerge in subjects usually considered unrelated to rhetoric: race in *Othello*, colonialism in *The Tempest*, tragedy in *Romeo and Juliet*, and cowardice in *The Roaring Girl*.

Book Information

Hardcover: 252 pages

Publisher: University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division; 1 edition (February 14, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802088376

ISBN-13: 978-0802088376

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,057,495 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #987 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Renaissance #1416 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Drama #3954 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > English Literature

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